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SHEFA rejects dozens due to 'residency'

» Complaints flood mayor's office
» Flores sees indication of 'bias'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Several U.S. citizen students with non-U.S. citizen parents are crying foul over the decision of the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance to disapprove their scholarship applications, describing the decision as "unfair" and a violation of policies and regulations.

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Requests filed to investigate Buckingham

» OPA confirms 'several' complaints
» 2 delegate candidates begin action

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Formal requests with the Office of the Public Auditor to investigate Attorney General Edward Buckingham and his office for hosting a campaign gathering for a delegate candidate are piling up.

Jesse Borja, the Democratic Party's candidate for CNMI delegate, lodged a formal complaint yesterday and asked for an investigation against Buckingham and the Office of the Attorney General for "serious viola-

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Exit poll language scored for bias; bill passes House

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A bill that would survey voters' stance on the Interior Department's recommendation for foreign workers passed the House of Representatives yesterday after much debate that had some members criticizing the "misleading" and "loaded" language of the exit poll.

House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) particularly questioned the opening statement of the exit poll, which states: "Without consulting the Governor as required by PL 110-229…"

Benavente and other members said they are not against conducting an exit poll, but they want the

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Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), right, addresses his colleagues during a debate yesterday morning on a bill mandating the Commonwealth Election Commission to conduct an exit poll to get voters' opinion on the U.S. Department of the Interior's report recommending improved immigration status for long-term foreign workers. Also in photo is Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan). HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Mystery leak in Tanapag and Lower Base

» 600 gallons per minute lost
» About 50 families affected

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Malae

An as-yet unfound leak in the water distribution system in Tanapag and Lower Base has resulted in the ongoing loss of 500 to 600 gallons of water per minute, affecting about 50 families in the area.

Abe Utu Malae, assistant executive director for operation, said yesterday

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Have you gotten your refund/stimulus check yet?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Library Council
The CNMI Library Council is now officially complete, with three new members.

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Palooza Party
Pacific Islands Club Saipan was all spruced up for the party of the year—the 2010 PIC Palooza.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 25

Romantic Duo
This weekend's romantic comedy "Going the Distance" pairs up Drew Barrymore and Justin Long.

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Local

US Attorney warns of 3 scams circulating in NMI, Guam

U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco is warning the public that there are at least three scams currently circulating in Guam and in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Referral Scam

The first scam, called the Referral Scam, works as follows: a law firm receives a referral from someone posing as an out-of-state attorney to enforce a simple contract dispute or collect a debt from a local corporation owed to a foreign company. The law firm, believing that it is exercising due diligence, confirms that the prospective client is a real company, then enters into a fee agreement. It sends a demand letter, and later receives a cashier's check made payable to the law firm. The client is pleased and directs the law firm to wire the money, after deducting its fees and costs. The law firm deposits the money into a trust account, waits for the check to clear the law firm's bank, and wires the money to the client. Things fall apart when the bank on which the check is drawn notifies everyone that the check is counterfeit, by which time it is usually too late to stop the wire transfer, and the law firm's client trust account is now out the proceeds, which the law firm has to replace. The scam works because the law firm erroneously believes that the check is good when it clears the law firm's bank. However, that is not the case. The first clearance is only provisional. Under Title 12, Sections 229.12 through 229.42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, a Pacific Island bank has additional time under the law to verify and scrutinize the check.

TO REPORT A SCAM

- U.S. Secret Service: (671) 472-7395
- Federal Bureau of Investigation: (671) 472-7422.
- Health and Human Services Fraud Hotline: 1-800-447-8477

"Beware of similar circumstances. Remember, those engaged in these schemes are devious and will use the names of actual companies, client contacts and referring attorneys in an effort to sell the scam," said Limtiaco.

If you suspect that you have encountered a similar situation, independently verify the names and contact information provided to you and do not disburse the deposited funds until you have consulted with the banks referenced and received their certification that the check was drawn upon a valid account. This may take several weeks.

If you suspect a scam, contact the U.S. Secret Service at (671) 472-7395 or the Federal Bureau of Investigation at (671) 472-7422.

The Grant Scam

The second scam, called the Grant Scam, is one where someone calls on the telephone telling you that you have received a free grant from the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. It may sound legitimate because the caller will give you his/her name, a control number and telephone numbers to call Washington, D.C. to claim your grant. However, the caller will tell you that you need to pay a fee to receive the grant. The caller is persistent, sometimes calling back to follow-up if you have not yet called the telephone numbers provided by the scam artist.

Unwitting victims will typically receive an unsolicited telephone call or email that you will be awarded a grant for a small processing fee (for example, $50). If you have not submitted an application for a government grant and someone claims you have been awarded one, it is a scam. The application process for a U.S. government grant can be very lengthy. If someone comes back and tells you within a day that you have been chosen for a grant, it is a scam.

If you are asked to pay an application fee, it is a scam. Depending on the type of grant you are applying for, it is usually required that you show financial resources to cover expenses that a grant does not cover.

If you choose to pay a person or organization for assistance with a grant, make sure you are paying them to perform a service and not just echo free information from public sources. You can access free grant information at www.grants.gov and www.govbenefits.gov. If you choose to hire a service, it is strongly suggested that you confer with "scambuster" websites first.

If you feel that you have been a victim of a grant scam or have been contacted by someone claiming to be a federal employee wanting to give you free money, contact the Health and Human Services fraud hotline at 1-800-447-8477, the Secret Service, or the FBI.

The *Please Help Me* Scam

The third scam is one where the emailer claims to be a family member, friend or acquaintance, and states that he/she is out of the country (for example, London), has lost his/her passport and wallet and the hotel will not release that person until the hotel bill is paid. The email will ask you to wire money to help the person in distress. Because the email came from an email address associated with a family member, friend or acquaintance, you may think that that person is actually in trouble.

Contact your family member, friend or acquaintance to confirm his/her whereabouts and status. Again, if you suspect a scam, contact the Secret Service or the FBI. ***(PR)***

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Year-to-date vehicle sales show 41-pct. growth

But down 8 percent in August

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Vehicle sales increased by 41 percent during the first eight months of the year, but posted an 8-percent drop in August alone, data released yesterday by the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association shows.

CADA sold 413 new cars, trucks, vans and sports utility vehicles between January and August, a 41.44-percent growth from last year's 292.

In August alone, the number of new vehicles sold stood at 55, an 8.33-percent drop from 60 sold during the same month last year.

Matthew Deets, president of CADA, said the decline in August "is not bad, considering that August 2009 was one of the best months of the year."

"I am happy that the market is up 41 percent but with the overall state of the economy and other factors, I anticipate that the market will slow somewhat in the fourth quarter," Deets, who is also general manager of Joeten Motor Co. Inc., told *Saipan Tribune*.

Microl Corp. sold most new vehicles in the first eight months of 2010, with 182 units from 120. However, it posted an 11-percent decrease in August, from 19 last year to 17 last month.

Joeten Motors posted a 79-percent increase in year-to-date sales, from 78 last year to 140 this year.

In August, only Joeten Motors posted an increase of 50 percent, from 14 last year to 21 this year.

Triple "J" Motors saw a 3-percent decrease in its year-to-date sales, from 94 to 91 this year. It also posted a 37-percent drop in August, from 27 to 17.

Between January and August, cars were the most saleable with 195 units sold, followed by 134 SUVs, 62 trucks, and 22 vans.

Toyota Corolla was not only the top car of choice, but also the most saleable of any vehicle make and model in the first eight months of the year, with 44 units sold, followed by Toyota Yaris with 32, and Mazda3 with 31.

Among cars, Toyota sold five new units in August, followed by Mazda2 with four, and three each of Honda Civic, Hyundai Accent, Hyundai Azera, Mazda3, and Toyota Yaris. CADA also sold one unit each of Hyundai Genesis Cp, Kia Rio, Kia Soul, Nissan Cube, Nissan Sentra, and Toyota Camry.

Nissan Rogue was the most saleable SUV in the first eight months of 2010 with 25 units sold, followed by Toyota RAV4 with 24, and Hyundai Tucson with 16.

But in August alone, Toyota RAV4 sold the most among SUVs with four, followed by Honda CR-V with two. CADA also sold one each of Ford Escape, Honda Pilot, Hyundai Tucson, Hyundai Veracruz, Nissan Murano, Nissan Rogue, Suzuki G. Vitara, Toyota 4 Runner, and Toyota FJ Cruiser.

Toyota Tacoma was the most popular truck from January and August, with 27 sold, tailed by Ford Ranger with 18, and Nissan Frontier with 14.

In August alone, CADA sold two units of Nissan Frontier, and one Ford Ranger and Tacoma each.

Toyota Sienna was the top van of choice with eight sold between January and August, followed by Ford E-Van with seven, and Mazda5 with four.

For the month of August alone, CADA sold five Ford E-Vans and one Sienna.

The three-member CADA also sold 209 used or secondhand vehicles, and 39 in August alone.

CUC warns of low water pressure in schools

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

With classes in public schools starting Tuesday, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is enlisting the help of school administrators to conserve water due to an anticipated low water pressure.

CUC said that conservation in individual schools is vital to stabilizing the water supply in campuses.

An estimated 11,000 students from kindergarten to 12th grade will troop to campuses on Sept. 7 when public schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota open.

"Water pressure to the schools will be low so conservation is critical," Abe Utu Malae, CUC assistant executive director, said yesterday when asked about challenges the utility agency faces in the new school year.

Besides water, Malae said schools must also prepare for some power outages that may occur during the typhoon season.

"Power will depend on the weather," he said.

He said that CUC has already completed the installation of water meters in schools.

Water and power consumption in public schools amount to $4 million annually and education officials attribute a significant portion of this account to overcharges due to "ghost accounts" and unaddressed "leaks" in many schools.

The Board of Education and the Public School System earlier discovered "ghost accounts" being charged to the system. The questioned accounts covered several years' worth of water billings.

CUC has agreed to settle this with a $300,000 offset in future water billings of affected schools. A memorandum of agreement is now being finalized by both PSS and CUC.

Public schools now use smart water meters, but many are still making inaccurate readings.

This fiscal year, PSS reprogrammed $1.4 million in federal monies to pay for power and water obligations. The rest are paid for by the local government through budget allotments.

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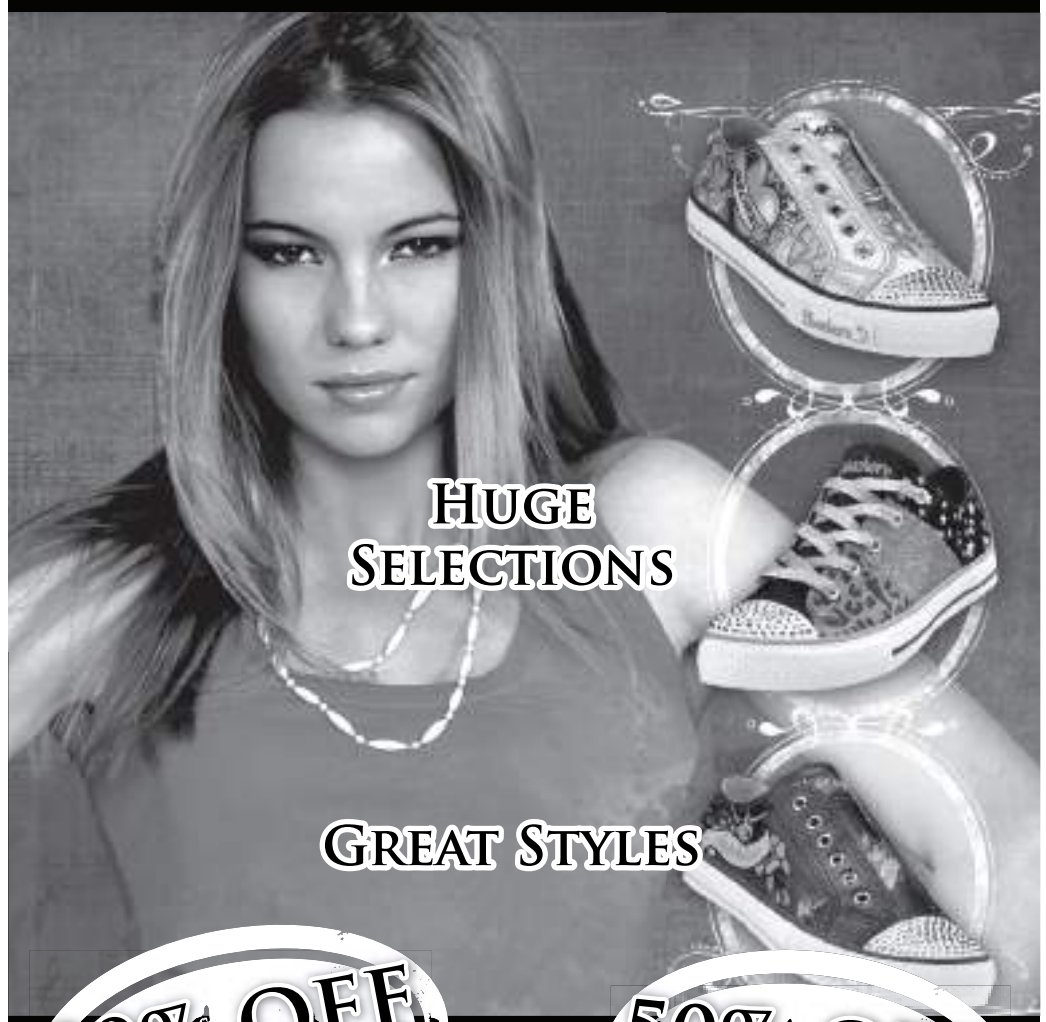

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REQUESTS

From Page 1

tions" of government ethics and election laws.

Other individuals filed similar complaints in previous days.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, who is seeking re-election, also filed yesterday with the OAG an Open Government Act request for all records of CNMI government employees' activities using government time or resources to support the candidacy of Joseph Camacho of the ruling Covenant Party.

The complaints arose from a gathering that Buckingham hosted Saturday night at Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's private residence in Gualo Rai.

Public Auditor Michael Pai confirmed yesterday that OPA "received several complaints pertaining to the substance of your inquiries."

But OPA could not say at this time whether it will investigate or has already started investigating the matter.

"At this point it is too preliminary to comment on the substance of OPA's response, but I can inform you that OPA will be responding in the coming days," Pai told *Saipan Tribune.*

A fourth delegate candidate, former Juan N. Babauta of the Republican Party, did not return calls for comment yesterday.

But he earlier said that Buckingham should have not mixed politics and his role as the highest law enforcement officer of the CNMI.

'Appoint a special prosecutor'

The Committee to Elect Jesse Borja lodged a formal complaint with OPA, the Commonwealth Election Commission and the OAG against Buckingham and the OAG "for serious violations of the Commonwealth Election Law, violations of the Commonwealth Government Ethics Law, and perhaps other violations of local and federal law and regulation."

Roy M. Pangelinan, chair of the committee, confirmed filing the two-page complaint yesterday.

"We will be sending a copy to the Federal Election Commission, too," he told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

The committee said the invitation and the event itself are both clear violations of the Commonwealth election law.

It added that the actions of the attorney general and the OAG are also in violation of the CNMI Government Ethics Code, and requests OPA "to initiate an investigation of violations of the Government Ethics Code in accordance with the duties set forth in 1 CMC 8561."

It said it is unfortunate that the OAG is tasked with investigating alleged violations of the CNMI election law.

Because of this "conflict of interest," the committee said it is asking that a special prosecutor be appointed to investigate Buckingham and the OAG.

Buckingham earlier said attendance to the event was not mandatory.

"Even though I do not agree with the concerns that have been raised, to the extent that some in the public might have concerns arising from Saturday, I wish to express my regret," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said he made a $300 personal contribution for food and cleanup.

'AG-Gate'

The Committee to Elect Sablan, the CNMI's first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, said it has begun legal action on "AG-Gate."

It filed an Open Government Act request with the OAG to obtain all emails, phone logs, and other communications or records of communications that occurred, using government resources, to arrange any event in support of Camacho.

MYSTERY

From Page 1

that the problem began some three weeks ago and, although the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.is now working to find where the leak is occurring, a permanent solution is expected to take at least 18 to 24 months.

He said the area most affected is the east side of Pale Arnold Road.

"About 50 families were affected in the last three weeks…and an estimated 500 to 600 [gallons per minute] is being lost in the area," said Malae.

As a temporary solution, Malae said they are pumping more water into the area from the seven wells in As Matuis and seven wells at Sablan Quarry.

Saipan Tribune learned that the unaccountable loss of water began shortly after two downed wells at Sablan Quarry were restored to service.

CUC believes that when the system was repressurized, more leaks occurred in the old pipes that were not built in the drawings.

"The crews walked the lines in Lower Base to look for leaks, especially in the swampy areas that cannot be seen from the main road. A few leaks were found, repaired and some very old pipes were capped," explained Malae.

CUC had already asked Tanapag residents to call the agency if they see any leaks or water coming out of the ground.

This week, Malae said, the crews are testing the 12-inch water line along the main road, valving each section off to isolate and identify the area where water is disappearing.

Malae said CUC is working with the Water Task Force, the mayor's office and a private contractor to address the problem.

SHEFA

From Page 1

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores said yesterday that his office was bombarded with complaints about this. He admitted that there seems to be signs of "bias" in the disapproval of certain applications and vowed to look into the validity of the decisions.

Many of those whose applications were disapproved are U.S. citizens, had graduated from private and public high schools on island, and have achieved high grade point averages—enough to meet all the requirements of the scholarship program.

Despite this, SHEFA officials disapproved their applications on the basis of "residency."

Saipan Tribune learned that many of the disapproved students have parents who are non-U.S. citizens.

Among the affected students is Leagine Mendiola, a Saipan Southern High School graduate and former president of the popular Manta Ray Band.

Mendiola said yesterday that she made sure she completed all the requirements before the July 30 deadline but was disappointed to receive the disapproval letter last week.

"The reason for the disapproval is my residency. I called the SHEFA office to verify the problem about my residency and I was disappointed when the employee could not say or justify the reason. I think that's very unfair," Mendiola said.

Mendiola filed an appeal with the SHEFA board on Wednesday, asking it to verify her application and reconsider its decision.

In her appeal, Mendiola cited the SHEFA rules and requirements and explained why she is eligible to receive scholarship assistance.

Mendiola's former schoolmate, Wayne Wagan, expressed the same sentiment yesterday, saying he was also denied assistance because of his residency.

"I thought SHEFA is supposed to help CNMI students further their education? But how can you say we're not a resident of the CNMI when we're born here and grew up on the island? How are our parent being part of this whole situation when they are not the one who's going to school?" Wagan said.

Armalene Cabreros, a graduate of Mount Carmel School, was also disapproved; she appealed to the SHEFA board last week, justifying her residency status.

"I don't think I have a problem with my residency…so I appealed to the board and re-submitted all the necessary requirements just to prove my eligibility for the program. I just don't understand that it's been only this year that many students were disapproved [unlike in previous years]," she said.

Cabreros said she went to the SHEFA office yesterday and was told to follow up in two weeks.

The same cases were experienced by Steven Centino and Ruby Ann Reyes, both recent graduates of Saipan Southern High.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from SHEFA administrator William Torres but he did not return call.

Indication of bias

Mayor Flores admitted seeing an indication of "bias" in the disapproval of certain applications.

"I see that there's an indication of bias…and as a mayor, I will do my best to look into the matter and rectify the problem," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

If it happens that there's a violation of the policy and regulation, Flores said his office will do the right thing for the students.

SHEFA is composed of a five-member board appointed by the mayor of Saipan. These members are the policymakers for the scholarship program that provides students up to $5,000 in financial assistance from poker fees.

SHEFA's mission is to provide supplementary financial assistance to qualified residents of Saipan, inclusive of the Northern Islands, who want to pursue post-secondary education on Saipan or abroad.

Recipients are expected to return to the island with the necessary and sufficient knowledge, skill, attitude and work ethic in order to provide services on Saipan in the private sector, government, nongovernmental organizations, and not-for-profit organizations.

EXIT POLL

From Page 1

opening statement to be deleted, saying it is misleading, loaded, and shows no neutrality.

"This is a trick to get more people to vote against giving improved status to foreign workers. Even those who want to vote yes on the question of whether they agree or not on the Interior recommendation will be tricked by the opening statement. This is unfair not only to the voters but also to the foreign workers," Benavente told *Saipan Tribune.*

His written floor amendment to delete this section was defeated on a 17-2 vote.

Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) abstained from voting.

The provision for the exit poll is a rider to a larger election reform bill, House Bill 17-104, House Substitute 1, introduced by Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan). The bill seeks to address concerns cited in a previously passed election reform law that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had vetoed and the Legislature had overridden.

After Benavente's amendment was defeated, members voted on the bill itself, passing it on a 19-1 vote. Only Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) voted "no" on the bill.

The bill now goes to the Senate.

Senate floor leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) said yesterday that the election bill may be acted on in today's session on Tinian.

Debate

Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) was strongly opposed to Benavente's amendment, saying it's important for voters to know that Interior did not consult with Fitial before submitting its report and recommendation to the U.S. Congress.

Rep. Frederick Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) echoed Ogumoro.

Benavente said he was in Washington, D.C. where Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta told a congressional hearing that the Office of Insular Affairs consulted with the governor.

Fitial has been saying that he or the CNMI government was not consulted.

In the end, even House members who voted "no" to Benavente's amendment conceded that both Fitial and Babauta were just stating their "opinion."

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), who strongly supported Benavente's amendment, said the exit poll should be focused on getting the voters' opinion on the Interior recommendation. He also said the opening statement would confuse voters.

"If we remove 'without consulting,' it will not do any harm because the intent of the exit poll is to get voters' stand on the Interior report," he said.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) said the exit poll should be crafted without a loaded statement.

Benavente and other members said the loaded statement gives the appearance of bias against the Interior report even before voters' opinions are polled.

Rep. Rafael Demapan (Cov-Saipan) said the language of the bill is consistent with the language of the joint resolution that the House passed in May, referring to the phrase about a lack of consultation.

The seven members who voted "yes" to Benavente's amendment were: Benavente, Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), and Yumul.

The speaker abstained.

"In my opinion, there's no need to put the fact that the Interior was not consulted because the main issue should be whether or not voters agree on the Interior recommendations," Tenorio later said.

The remaining 12 members voted "no" to the amendment.

Language

The bill requires the exit poll to state the following: "Without consulting the governor as required by PL 110-229, the April 2010 Report on the Alien Worker Population in the CNMI by the Department of the Interior, recommended the following: 'Consistent with the goals of comprehensive immigration reform, we recommend that the Congress consider permitting alien workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for a minimum of five years to apply for long-term status under the immigration and nationality laws of the United States.'"

It then asks: "Do you agree with this recommendation that the U.S. Congress consider permitting alien workers who have lawfully resided in the CNMI for a minimum of five years to apply for long-term status such as United States citizenship, permanent resident status, and freely associated state nonimmigrant status? ____ Yes. ____ No."

The question will be printed on 18,000 sheets separate from the ballot.

Absentee voters will also be given the exit poll.

'Biased, inaccurate'

Former representative Tina Sablan, when asked for comment, said the opening to the question is "biased and inaccurate, and should not be ramrodded into our election law or imposed upon voters on Election Day."

"If I, as a voter, choose not to participate in this nonbinding exit poll, it would be at least in part because I disagree with the premise that the governor was not consulted. He most certainly was consulted, on many documented occasions, during the preparation of the DOI report. Unfortunately, on many documented occasions, the governor refused to share information and would not cooperate with federal authorities," she said.

Sablan also said the proposed question refers to multiple options that are cited in the DOI report.

"What if a voter agrees with only one of the options for status, but not the others? What if the voter believes that long-term status should be granted, but not the options mentioned? If I, as a voter, choose not to participate in this nonbinding exit poll, it will also be at least in part because the question itself is poorly drafted and confusing, and there is no way for me to answer accurately, or meaningfully. I do not believe that there is any interest in this administration or in the House in truly seeking the sentiments of the people, let alone in asking neutral questions on the issue of status for guest workers," she said.

She said the exit poll results will be exploited to favor political agendas and conclusions that are already established.

"Why would I want to participate in that?" she asked.

'Civil disobedience may be best response to alien registration'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Human rights advocate Wendy Doromal said the CNMI Department of Labor's enforcement of a mandatory alien registration should be challenged, possibly through civil disobedience.

In her latest posting on her Unheard No More blog, Doromal said the best way to challenge Public Law 17-1 may be for the alien workers to refuse to register.

"If anyone is arrested by local authorities, then the law can be immediately challenged in court," she said.

If she were an alien worker, Doromal said, she will absolutely not register with Labor.

"Why should thousands of workers and nonresidents line up once again to be used as pawns to fill the CNMI's empty coffers?" she asked.

Doromal also questioned the failure of the U.S. Department of Justice and CNMI attorneys to defend the rights of foreigners from "this unjust law."

"Are they waiting for the host countries to create an international uproar about the human and civil rights abuses on their citizens residing in the CNMI before they act?" Doromal asked.

Labor Deputy Secretary Jacinta Kaipat issued a statement Thursday to announce the mandatory alien registration. It will be conducted from Sept. 7 to Nov. 30, 2010.

Aliens who already have ID cards issued by the CNMI after Jan. 1, 2010, are already deemed registered and need not do anything until next year.

Doromal pointed out that P.L. 17-1 states that any alien who fails to register or carry the alien registration with them could face a fine, jail time, or both.

"Sounds familiar? Think Arizona. The very same racist and unconstitutional provisions that District Court Judge Susan Bolton questioned in the Arizona law are mirrored in the evil CNMI law," she said.

Some alien workers expressed frustration with all these registration.

"We already went through a long line at Labor just to get umbrella permits. Everybody knows it was very chaotic. Many got their umbrella permits only after four to six visits. Then we went to Federal Ombudsman to register too. We have work and we have children to attend to," said Lina, a mother of three.

Lina, who asked that she be identified only by her first name, said she was among the many workers who were repeatedly told to return to Labor to pick up their umbrella permits.

Lina said the federal government and the CNMI should stop this "power struggle" because it is affecting not just businesses and parents but children too.

Court sets dates in Fernandez, NMC fight

The federal court has set two dates for the status and settlement conference in the lawsuit filed by former Northern Marianas College president Carmen Fernandez against NMC and its regents, as well as NMC's counterclaim against Fernandez.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood set the first status and settlement conference for Nov. 22, 2010, at 10am.

"Each party shall be required to attend such conference, either personally or through a representative with full authority to participate in settlement negotiations and to effect a complete compromise of the case," said Tydingo-Gatewood in a case management order.

The judge set the other settlement conference on March 21, 2011, at 10am.

Tydingo-Gatewood set the trial for April 19, 2011, at 10am.

She gave the parties until Feb. 11, 2011, to file all dispositive motions.

Fernandez estimates that her damages in connection with her lawsuit will amount over $300,000. NMC and its regents, on the other hand, seek about $50,000 in damages from Fernandez in their counterclaims.

Fernandez is suing NMC and regents Janet H. King, Maria Castro "Paz" Younis, Andrew L. Orsini, and Frank Rabauliman for allegedly depriving her of her good name and property, conspiracy, defamation, and conspiracy to defame her. She sued NMC for wrongful termination and breach of contract.

NMC, however, filed claims of breach of contract, and breach of fiduciary duty against Fernandez.

NMC said the former college president failed to follow proper procedure in changing certain student grades, in contravention of NMC's grade change policy.

NMC also alleged that Fernandez owed certain fiduciary duties to the college by virtue of her special position as a president of an education institution. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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IT&E embarks on building next generation network in Marianas

With over $8million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, IT&E will be bringing to the CNMI and Guam a multi-million dollar next generation network that will upgrade existing infrastructure.

IT&E ushered in a new era of coverage and connectivity in the Marianas with the recent completion of capacity and coverage expansion projects worth $1 million. Now the CNMI and Guam will benefit from several additional improvements that are currently underway.

The next generation network project will bring to the CNMI and Guam the first high-capacity broadband services through an extensive upgrade to the island backbone infrastructure. The improvements will upgrade IT&E's existing interisland microwave and undersea fiber transmission systems. Capacity will increase to 1.2 Gbps for its interisland microwave system and to 10 Gbps to its undersea fiber cable system.

"The next generation network will bring the next level of communications to our area and expand the availability of high-speed connections to the Marianas, especially to those who provide essential services to our community," said IT&E executive vice president Larry Knecht.

By the time the project is complete, IT&E will directly connect 403 anchor institutions, including community colleges, K-12 schools, libraries, health care facilities, and public safety organizations. This will also enable government agencies, schools, and businesses to benefit from videoconferencing and other advanced broadband capabilities.

The next generation network project will also improve health care services by expanding and enhancing broadband capabilities for public health and social services facilities on the islands.

In coming weeks and months, IT&E will work with its project partners from the Workforce Investment Agency, Marianas Visitors Authority, Northern Marianas College, Department of Commerce, Department of Public Health, and Saipan Chamber of Commerce. During that time, IT&E will update the public with project progress reports that will focus on every aspect of its next generation network.

For more information about IT&E's coverage and services, contact IT&E Customer Care at 682-4ITE (4483) at IT&E Customer Service on Middle Road. ***(IT&E)***

Red flag up at several Saipan, Rota beaches

As of Sept. 2, 2010, the Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on 15 sites on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The affected beach sites are Aqua Resort, Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, DPW channel bridge, south Puerto Rico dump, Smiling Cove Marina, American Memorial Park, Hyatt Beach Hotel, Fiesta Resort Hotel, Fiesta Resort drainage, Hafa Adai drainage, Garapan Beach, Garapan Beach drainage, Saipan Grand Hotel, and San Antonio lift station.

As of Aug. 31, 2010, the following Saipan East Beaches are assigned a red flag: Obyan Beach, Ladder Beach, Hidden Beach, and Old Man By The Sea.

On Rota, the following beach sites are assigned a red flag as of Aug. 31, 2010: Coral Garden, Kokomo Beach Club, Mobil storm drainage, Teweksberry Beach, West Harbor Marina, and District 2 storm drainage.

Samples collected from these areas contained excessive concentration of enterococci, a fecal indicator bacteria that can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have also shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

Tinian Island and Managaha Island beach sites were not sampled this week.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota and a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha. ***(DEQ)***

Liberal arts tops NMC's fall enrollment

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College's liberal arts program topped this fall semester's enrollment with a total of 384 students, or 31 percent of the total enrollment number.

Its bachelor of science in education program comes next with 268 enrollees. This translates to 22 percent of NMC's enrollment record.

The associate in science program for nursing also posted a satisfying 13-percent increase in its enrollment figure, totaling 160 students.

The associate in applied science with emphasis in criminal justice is fourth, with a record of 102 students, an 8-percent increase; associate in applied science with emphasis in business got 68 enrollees or a 5.51 percent increase; business management, 50 enrollees, 4 percent; computer application, 49 students, 3.97 percent; accounting, 39 students, 3.16 percent; hospitality management, 31 enrollees, 2.51 percent; and natural resources management, 19 students.

NMC also had 64 enrollees in its non-degree programs this fall semester.

College data indicates that NMC's total fall enrollment of 1,234 is a 25-percent increase over the 991 enrollees during the same period last year. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the 1,234 enrollees are composed of full time and part-time students across all programs and courses.

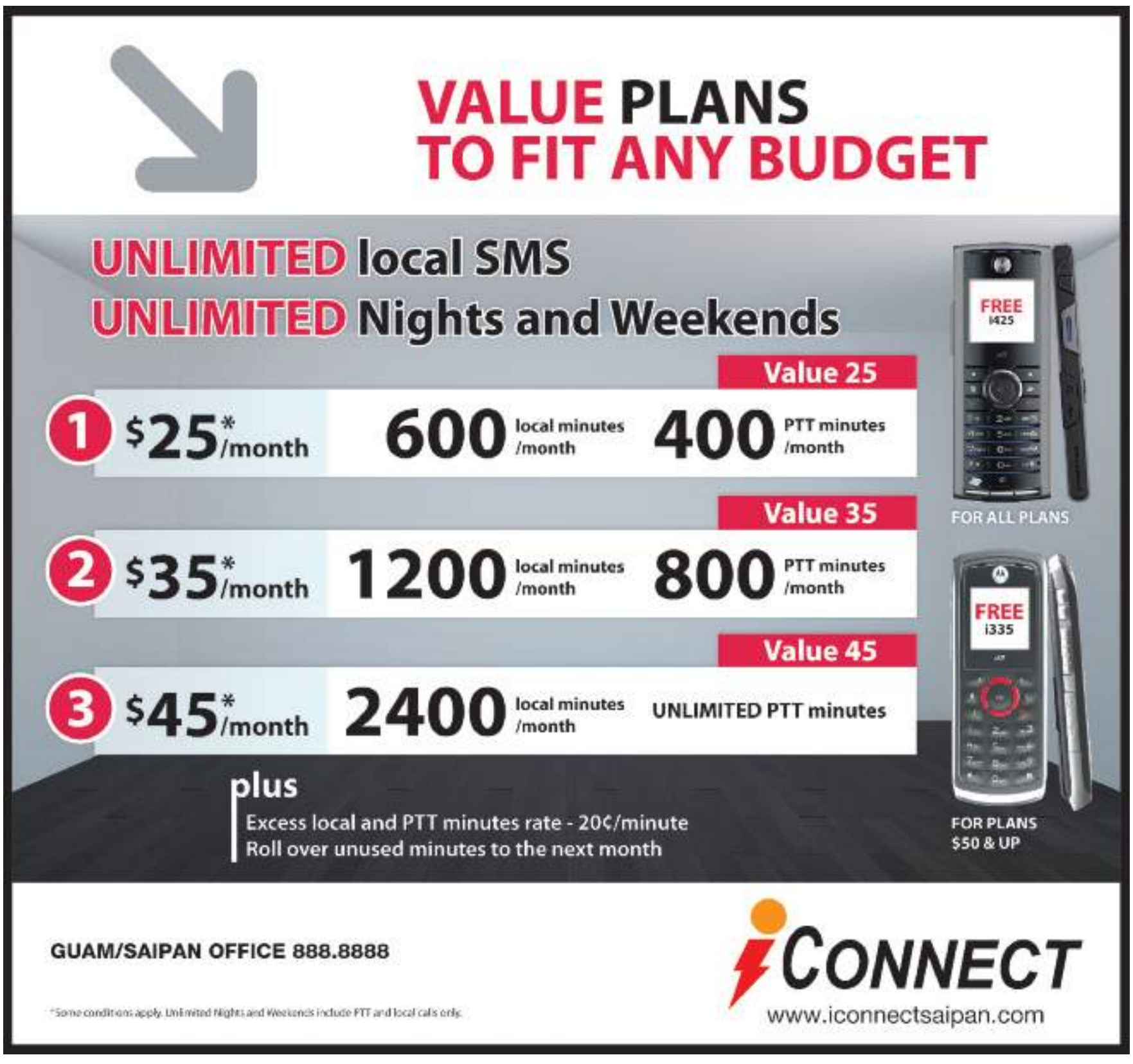
NMC said there are many factors that influenced many students' decision to enroll at the college. One of them was the aggressive recruitment efforts of the NMC team to persuade high school graduates to start their higher education at the community college.

In an early interview with dean of student services Leo Pangelinan, he said NMC also courted students through various events such as Start Smart Seminars and Cash for College, which were held in three islands.

Pangelinan said NMC offers 121 distinct courses in a wide variety of disciplines to help students achieve their educational goals, including coursework required for one or more of NMC's degree and certificate programs.

Based on the Public School System's exit poll last school year, 60 percent of public high school graduates would pursue college here and abroad—the highest percentage recorded by PSS in the last few years.

A significant portion of this number expressed a desire to enroll at NMC.



Audition notice to students in grades 6–12

The Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands is preparing to stage the musical comedy *Zombie Prom* by Dempsey and Rowe around Halloween weekend. This will be an all-student production, open to CNMI public and private school students in grades 6 through 12.

Auditions for the student director and assistant directors will be on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2010, from 4pm to 6pm.

Auditions for the cast will be on Tuesday and Thursday, Sept. 14 and 16, 2010, from 4pm to 6pm.

Sign-up for technical assistants (lighting, set design and construction, costumes, makeup, props, tech crew) and marketing (program, posters, tickets) will also be Tuesday and Thursday, Sept. 14 and 16, 2010, from 4pm to 6pm.

Auditions for musicians (rock band) will be scheduled separately.

All auditions and sign-ups are at MHS D101. ***(PR)***

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Library council welcomes three new members

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID

The CNMI Library Council welcomes three new members during the opening of the Cultural Heritage & Arts Pacifica Exhibit last September 1. From left, library executive director John Oliver DLR Gonzales, new member Manuel Villagomez Jr., Paz Younis, chairman Joe Limes, Herminia Fusco, and new member Anna Baer. Not in photo is Frannie Tenorio Demapan, also a new member.

The CNMI Library Council is now officially complete, welcoming aboard three new members on Wednesday.

Anna Baer, Manuel Villagomez Jr., and Frannie Tenorio Demapan join the policymaking board of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, council member Herminia Fusco told *Saipan Tribune* during the opening of the Cultural Heritage & Arts Pacifica Exhibit at the library on Sept. 1.

Besides Fusco, the other council members are Paz Younis and chair Joe Limes.

A retired educator from Koblerville Elementary School, Baer said she used to bring her students to the library and encourage them to read.

"I want to serve the community. I will try to open up more avenues for kids to learn," said the 2001 CNMI Teacher of the Year.

The son of one of the library's benefactors, Villagomez said he is very excited to join the council.

According to Villagomez, he will take over his nephew Charles Cepeda's position and represent his family and the private sector in the council.

"As part of the Library Council, I will help develop and provide more services in the community through the Joeten-Kiyu Public library," he said.

Villagomez also vowed to work on other public libraries in the CNMI.

Library executive director John Oliver DLR Gonzales said Demapan, who was not present during the exhibit opening, graduated from the New York University and will serve as a high school teacher on Saipan.

"I couldn't be any more pleased than having a complete constituted quorum of our CNMI Library Council. We're more than ready to conduct official business…and operate the public library as efficient[ly] and as transparent[ly] as possible," he said.

Gonzales said the new council members will have their first council meeting in the next few days.

At this meeting, Fusco said the council will elect the secretary and various committee leaderships.

Located in Susupe, the Joeten Kiyu Public Library provides educational materials in printed, multimedia and digital formats. In addition to regular services, the library also has an information technology center and a book mobile program. It places a special emphasis on children's and youth collections, services, and programs.

Ex-LISS principal withdraws suit in fed court

» Plaintiff gets new lawyer, files same case in local court

The former principal of the defunct Ladera International School of Saipan voluntarily dismissed on Wednesday his lawsuit in federal court against the school's owner who allegedly subjected him to verbal abuse, causing him to suffer from a major depression.

Richard Louis Nigh, through counsel Loren A. Sutton, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to dismiss his lawsuit against Yong Nam Park.

Sutton said there are no federal claims in this lawsuit.

Sutton said Nigh also desires to add his employer, Ladera School, as a party to this action in order to prosecute his claims for constructive termination and breach of contract.

"Since Ladera is a corporation organized under the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands, his claims against Ladera cannot be brought in this court," the lawyer said.

Sutton said Nigh has changed attorneys and that attorney Robert Torres now represents the former principal in the lawsuit filed in the Superior Court.

In that lawsuit filed last week in the Superior Court, Nigh sued ILC Corp., owner of Ladera International School of Saipan, Park, and 10 unnamed co-defendants, for breach of contract, constructive discharge, interference with contract, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 3, 1999

Asylum seekers sue US, CNMI governments

Two asylum seekers, one of them a former student activist in Beijing, yesterday asked the federal court to stop the US and CNMI governments from sending them back to China where they are facing persecution. Rui Lang and Liao Da Nian are both incarcerated in the CNMI Immigration Detention Center on overstaying charges. They are awaiting the Superior Court's decision on the Department of Labor and Immigration's bid to have them deported. Bruce Jorgensen, attorney for Rui and Liao, said that under the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the United States is bound to protect persons seeking refugee status or asylum within the CNMI and to ensure that they are not sent back to their countries of origin.

CPA falls behind debt service

Battered by the continuous decline in arrivals, the Commonwealth Ports Authority is unable to raise the much needed revenues to meet its debt coverage ratio of 1.25 for the airport and seaport bonds. According to CPA's financial report, the airport debt coverage ratio is off by 1.05 or approximately $1.3 million from the operating activities to meet the required ratio of 1.25 in the last 10 months of fiscal year 1999, This is translated into a monthly shortfall of $130,000. Actual cash available for debt service as of July 1999 is only $53,834. Interest on the $20 million bond is payable semi-annually at 6.25 percent.

Sept. 3, 2001

CDA happy with death of Senate intervention

After scoring victory at the Senate, which voted against a resolution that proposes its intervention in a court case involving over $100 million dollars in CIP funds, the Commonwealth Development Authority is upbeat that the judiciary will finally seal its wreath. This developed as both the CDA and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation wait for the decision on their respective motion for summary judgment in connection with the Authority's lawsuit to collect some $102 million dollars in CIP funds loaned out to the utility agency.

Fitial echoes Senate's call for Teno's report

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial has agreed to the Senate's suggestion to hold a joint session for Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's State of the Commonwealth address and Washington Rep. Juan N. Babauta's State of the Washington Office report. The hitch is that Fitial wants both speeches in October, and not September as suggested by Senate President Paul A. Manglona. During an interview last night, Fitial said the House of Representatives will hold a session tomorrow, Tuesday, where he plans to call for a joint session of both chambers of the 12th CNMI Legislature for the State of the Commonwealth address and the State of the Washington Office report.

Sept. 3, 2002

DPH declares war against diabetes

Declaring war against diabetes, the Department of Public Health is intensifying efforts to curb the rising cases of the disease in the Commonwealth. Joining the campaign is nutritionist Sharon Daves from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. She has been tasked to develop a curriculum that will incorporate diabetes prevention in health studies in schools, Public Health Medical Director Richard Brostrom said. "It's the first time that a public health prevention specialist [from the CDC] has been here," Daves said. "I'm interested in work on diabetes especially with children and also I'm interested in international work." Daves would be assisting the CNMI for two years.

Memorial park projects move forward

With June 2004 as its target opening date, construction of several projects at the American Memorial Park is at fever pitch, with a schematic design review for the Visitors' Center and Exhibitory scheduled next week. Special Assistant Advisor for CIP Management Charles D. Jordan told reporters last week that National Parks Service personnel, as well as the A&E firm and the exhibitory design group for the projects, are going to be on-island for a schematic design review on September 9 or 10. During a media briefing on the status of several infrastructure projects in the Commonwealth, Jordan said an architectural and engineering firm-Guam-based RIM Architects-has already been retained for the several projects at the memorial park and that Gov. Juan N. Babauta had already signed the contract for the projects in early June.

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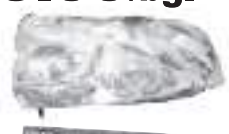

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Opinion

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A carton of eggs, 2 heads of lettuce, 3 packages of ground beef, 2 tomatoes, 2 peppers and 3 jars of peanut butter ... sorry... you're over the limit...
EXPRESS LANE
10 RECALLS OR LESS
MARGULIES

Juicing the yen

By **ED STEPHENS JR.**
Special to the Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

If you're one of the surviving retailers on Saipan that sells to Japanese tourists, you've surely noticed that the yen has been mighty strong against the U.S. dollar lately. In fact, the yen hit a 15-year high versus the dollar this week.

How can Saipan's businesses take advantage of this situation? There's an answer to that, but first let's enjoy some economic song-and-dance stuff.

We're talking big, not little, changes. The yen has gone up about 27 percent over the past three years. Here is an ultra-simple way to put things in perspective:

If you're selling $10 T-shirts, at the current rate of 84 yen to the dollar, it costs your Japanese customers 840 yen to buy that shirt.

At the yen rate of three years ago (115.8 yen per dollar), that shirt would cost 1,158 yen.

And, looking back to the early- to mid-'70s, the yen was also headline stuff as it bobbed around the 300 yen per dollar mark. It bounced around various marks actually, but I remember the 300 level distinctly. So, at that rate, our shirt would cost 3,000 yen.

Well, that's quite a change over the years, eh? In other words, the dollar has pretty much collapsed against the yen in past few decades. This coincides with the U.S. giving up its manufacturing base. Never mind esoteric financial stuff, here's the most basic fact: The Japanese have been making stuff that people want to buy, so the globe's mercantile chain bid up the price of yen in order to buy Japanese stuff.

It is that simple? Yes. At least in the long run. The short run, by contrast, is wild and tangled, but we'll leave that alone here.

Looking at the travel industry, just because the yen is strong doesn't mean that all is well in Japan, of course. Just to share some business news with you, details of the Japan Airlines bankruptcy hit the press this week, and it's dramatic stuff. According to the accounts I read, JAL plans to chop its staffing by a third and chop its international flights by 32 percent.

Anyway, time to ponder Saipan's tourists. Question: If the yen is stronger, thus making our stuff look cheaper to Japanese visitors, wouldn't it make sense to increase the dollar price of stuff we sell tourists?

Answer: In theory, yes. When the yen goes up, the customers' incomes go up (because dollar-priced goods are cheaper, thus giving the Japanese more purchasing power, thus giving them essentially an increase in income), and when incomes go up, demand goes up (at least for the sort of stuff we sell on Saipan), and when demand goes up, the profit maximizing price for whatever you're selling goes up. That's basic textbook stuff.

But in reality, well, you can't segment the market so easily. Most merchants are selling to a variety of nationalities, not just one. And, the dollar is the coin of the realm here. So getting esoteric with prices is not a practical solution.

Instead of chasing your price strategy around in circles, there is a more elegant solution if you want to milk the opportunity for maximum profits. In the context of a stronger yen, the solution is to aim a premium product at people who spend yen. So, in this context, while you keep the $10 T-shirts on the rack, you also introduce a $17 (or

See JUICING on Page 11

Federalization update

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

Last week marked the nine-month anniversary of the implementation of federalization of immigration in the CNMI. If Nov. 27, 2009, were the conception date, the baby would be born already. But as we have all learned one way or another, nature's schedules are more reliable than those of governments. Implementation of Public Law 110-229 ("CNRA") is progressing by fits and starts. The transition to federal authority (Customs and Border Protection or "CBP") at ports of entry, such as the Saipan airport has gone seamlessly. In our experience, when problems arise, CBP officers have been helpful, competent, and willing to find solutions to problems. The transition to federal authority of adjustment of status and travel issues (Citizenship and Immigration Services or "CIS") continues to face challenges. Although CIS has performed admirably under very difficult circumstances (the Saipan office has two permanent officers and one temporary adjudication officer and no staff support other than the contractors handling biometrics appointments), there are significant issues that remain to be addressed.

Delays in obtaining travel parole

One problem our clients continue to experience is delay in the processing of travel parole applications. What was last December a two-week processing time has now more than doubled. The current four-week processing time for Advance Parole (foreign travel) and Domestic Parole (travel to Guam and the U.S. mainland) does not include the time for mail to travel back and forth from Saipan to Guam. Due to reduced personnel to sort mail on Saipan, we are told, one-way mail to and from Guam can take up to two weeks. In one instance of which we aware, a box of files from Guam took 45 days to reach Saipan by regular mail. These delays in processing and mail delivery are creating difficulties for businesses and for individual foreign workers, and for USCIS staff who need prompt transmission of files to operate efficiently. We advise our clients to make use of a courier service such as DHL or Federal Express in both directions in order to cut down on transit time for parole applications.

Lack of final regulations for CNMI E2 investors and CW foreign workers

Another pressing issue is the lack of final regulations with respect to both CNMI-only E2 investors and contract workers (CW1 status). These regulations were published in proposed form in late 2009, but final regulations are not yet available. Until these regulations are published in final form, they cannot be implemented; in other words, these categories of special CNMI status, mandated under the CNRA, continue to be out of reach for foreign investor and workers in the CNMI.

Due to the above circumstances, uncertainty continues in the private sector. Many companies are attempting to hire workers in other categories such as H1 and H2. Only a small percentage of workers qualify for H1 (it requires a four-year college degree and a "specialty occupation") and H2 is designed to supply temporary workers for temporary work, such as construction projects. Guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor ("USDOL") with respect to wages remains elusive; employers seeking prevailing wage determinations are stumbling around in uncharted territory. There do not appear to be any standards that specifically apply to the CNMI; USDOL steadfastly refuses to recognize that the CNMI is in an unusual situation and that the one-size-fits-all that is applied in mainland jurisdictions does not work here. USDOL equally steadfastly refuses to send anyone to the CNMI in person, instead relying on unsatisfactory stakeholder conference calls to groups such as the Saipan Chamber of Conference, which is working hard to find solutions to these transitional problems. (At the conference call we attended a few months ago, USDOL personnel's repeated mantra was, "we know the CNMI is facing many challenges." Their suggestion for anticipated labor shortages? Seasonal chambermaids and seasonal construction workers. Get real, DOL.)

Where does this leave us?

This leaves the vast majority of CNMI foreign workers and their employers in a quandary. As we understand it, the federal government takes the position that anyone with an umbrella permit is authorized to work until Nov. 27, 2011. So, per the feds, employers who rely on this position can hire anyone with an umbrella permit without an approved contract and other requirements of the CNMI Department of Labor. However, the CNMI government continues to assert its authority over umbrella permit holders and has procedures in place to revoke umbrella permits for failure comply with conditions and requirements of the CNMI Labor law. Employers

See FEDERALIZATION on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Dedicating the use of bond proceeds and sticking to it

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian and military cartographer.

I note the piece in the Aug. 20 edition of the *Marianas Variety* headlined; "CDA: $2.9M CIP, bond money went to payroll."

Can it be assumed that the money provided (loaned?) the government by CDA to meet payroll was diverted from some other previously dedicated and thus earmarked use that may now suffer a shortfall as a result of the transfer?

This probably should be clarified, considering the government's confusing statements relative to floating a pension obligation bond, followed by the governor's statement that there were three possible sources of the business gross revenue tax that could also be used to meet the NMI government's legal obligation for payment to the Fund and its members as cited in the Aug. 9 edition of the *Marianas Variety* editorial where the governor was quoted as stating: "There are three sources of business gross revenue tax that he can tap to guarantee the repayment of the pension obligation bond, he added. (sic.)."

I leave aside the question as to why these sources were not used previously to meet the government's financial obligation to the Fund?

Rightly or wrongly it's all about appearances as actions speak louder than words. It's also about the propriety of the use of bond proceeds for purposes other than that for which they originally intended or obligated.

As for those three BGRT sources mentioned above, for all the years I was engaged as a CNMI economist I thought there was only one business gross revenue tax.

This confusion certainly doesn't bode well for government assurance that proceeds from a pension obligation bond will be totally dedicated toward "partially" paying its original litigated Superior Court judgment of $231 million debt to the Fund (as of June '09 - CA 06-0367).

This financial debt to the Fund has now grown to $286 million as a result of accumulated interest, or by an additional $55 million in just a little over a year and still growing. Wow! That's an increase of almost 24 percent. The government's debt grew at a rate of about $4.5 million a month (based on 12 months).

For me it's an issue of skeptical, cautious doubt of the government's word being as good "as its bond."

I always wondered about the origin of the phrase, "his word is his bond." It could give the dictionary's excepted definition of "bond" a new and different meaning. A bond is something that binds—as in promise, pledge, vow, swear, dedicate, guarantee, warrant, attest, abide.

Did I miss something in the second grade? Can someone tell me why the CNMI government appears to expect the community at large—by that I mean those not affiliated in any way with the retirees—to pay the government's debt to the Fund, if in fact the bond will be retired by using part of the BGRT as implied in the above quote? So which will it be: part of the BGRT or the employer's contribution to pay the bond debt?

If the track record clearly shows that the government stiffed the members in the past by not honoring its legal contractual obligation to the members, isn't that sufficient indication that the same thing might possibly happen with bond payments?

On the subject of governance—and recalling the words of the venerable Winston Churchill—"It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except for all the others that have been tried."

I submit his words ring true since any eligible citizen in our democracy can run for office but that privilege alone often results in our being governed by amateurs, and amateurs make mistakes that are almost always costly. As I may have mentioned previously in my column, by its very structure a democracy is run by amateurs. Bill Stewart can run for dog catcher—even though as an amateur he doesn't know much about how to catch feral animals.

What happens? Amateurs make mistakes that are almost always costly. Such is true of government administrators and legislators, many of whom have often had to either learn their job on the job (hopefully) or they have been around for 10 years or so. In which case, it's more often only one year's experience—10 times over.

Letter to the Editor

Let's tell the truth

I am by nature a curious person. So when all the crying about government payroll came up I decided to look into it. I know that the administration had done a lot of hiring, so I went to the Office of Personnel Management. And under the Open Government Act I requested to know the number of people the administration has hired from September 2009 to March 2010. The number surprised even me. The administration hired 297 workers at an average of $28,108 per year. What does this mean? It means that the governor did not win the election; he bought it with the taxpayer's money. How do I figure this? For every worker he hired, he got their vote plus the vote of their family. So in reality, he bought over a thousand votes. How many votes did he win by?

Now let's talk about money. I went to the Department of Finance and requested a payday-by-payday breakdown of the Office of the Governor's payroll. What a surprise! The governor's payroll has been stable at just over $3 million per payday. So how is he paying the 297 workers he hired? Why did they come out in the press saying that they needed $5.13 million for the government payroll? I would like to know the same answers to these questions.

Now we get to who is responsible for this mess. The answer is that the voters are responsible for this whole mess. When you vote by family line or out of fear of losing your job, you are playing into the hands of crooked politicians. It was proven to you that the governor lied to you about who was paying for his lawsuit. He lied about the condition of the power plants. But you still voted for him. So who is to blame? You all are. Now the question is: Can we afford four more years of this incompetent leadership? I do not think so. Just look around you. Families are leaving the islands. Businesses are closing down. The island is dying a slow death.

By the way, all this hiring took place with a hiring freeze in place. Where was the Legislature? Why did they not step in and say "no" to all the hiring? Are they all just as crooked? I personally think it is time for a recall of the governor and over half of the Legislature. We need to get the Legislature back to the job they were elected to do, which is to keep the government operating within the money they have to work with. It is not their job to look for investors or money generation schemes. That is the job of the administration, a job at which they have failed to do. One thing that I do now—if I were a government worker facing a 20 percent pay cut so that the governor can pay all the people that he hired to win the election, I would be up at the Legislature every day that I was without pay. I would not be silent either. I do not recommend violence but speaking your mind is not a form of violence.

These opinions are mine. But when you lose your car or your house because you cannot make the payments, maybe, just maybe, you will wake up and see what is going on and decide it is time to clean up the mess.

Frederick A. Prosser
As Matuis, Saipan

P.S. Do not let the Speaker of the House sell you a bill of goods about the casino. No casino will solve the problems of the island. The only thing that will solve our problems is honest and effective leadership, which we do not have. It is a sad day when the Legislature tries to bend the will of the people to their wants. They are supposed to work to fill the needs of the people, not their own needs. There is an old saying, "If it seems too good to be true, it is!" There is another saying, "Beware of strangers bearing gifts." Let the Legislature put the casino bill on the ballot in November. And let the will of the people be done.

FEDERALIZATION

From Page 10

and employees who rely on this position will continue to comply with the hiring and renewal procedures of the CNMI Department of Labor. Does the CNMI Department of Labor have the tools to enforce its position? Maybe. Enforcement is a complex issue involving law, political will, leadership and resources. We continue to advise our clients of both positions and advise them that they are taking a chance when they choose to ignore CNMI law.

One aspect of all this to be considered is whether the umbrella permit period will actually end on Nov. 27, 2011. That's only 15 months from now. We now have heard that the final regulations for CNMI E2 and CM are not likely to be out before January 2011. That would leave 10 months to adjust the status of approximately 20,000 foreign workers or face a mass exodus and economic collapse come Nov. 27, 2011. If the umbrella permit period is extended, and we understand that there are efforts under way to do so, then flouting CNMI Labor becomes less sensible. If the umbrella permit period is extended, and it would be in the interest of both the U.S. and the CNMI to do so, it would be prudent to comply with CNMI requirements, even if it is burdensome, and even if it requires the expenditure of time and money. To do so will preserve CNMI status, which may continue to be a valuable asset for some time to come.

The CNMI Department of Labor has implemented several procedures that are designed to preserve status: they are (1) CNMI Alien Registration and (2) CNMI Alien Status Update Request. We will briefly outline each:

CNMI Alien Registration

Alien registration has been done by the CNMI Department of Labor since 1985. It continues to be done under the authority of Public Law 17-1. The process has become critical for the CNMI government since its loss of immigration authority. With no access to immigration data, the alien registration process is the only one available to the CNMI government to track its alien population. All aliens in the CNMI for longer than 90 days are required to register. The process is neither complicated nor costly. The one-page registration form is available on the CNMI Department of Labor website: http://www.marianaslabor.net/forms.asp. A one-page instruction form is likewise available. The information required on the form is very basic: name, LIIDS number, residence address, status in the CNMI, and personal data such as date of birth, sex, height, weight, hair and eye color. The fee is $25, the same as it has been for years. For most foreigners in legal status, registration is not even an issue. Everyone who has a CNMI ID card issued after January 1, 2010, is already registered. This includes workers, IRs, investors, students. Every worker whose contract is renewed is automatically registered. Every investor and student whose ID card was issued by the Department of Commerce is automatically registered. Annual registration, however, is mandatory under section 5001 of P.L. 17-1. The penalties for failure to register are "imprisonment for not more than 90 day or fine of not more than $500 or both."

CNMI Alien Status Update Request

This is a very valuable new tool for those in uncertain status. This includes people with problematic umbrella permits such as: temporary umbrella permits, umbrella permits lacking a photograph, and umbrella permits with a report back date prior to Aug. 1, 2010. It also includes people with no umbrella permits who have a still valid CNMI permit, and minor children whose sponsor has an umbrella permit. People in all of these categories have an opportunity to file this form and get their status regularized or updated. We advise that if you are in one of these vulnerable categories, or if you know someone who is, please visit the website and take a look at this form. Once your status is updated, you can then register.

We hope that the pending regulations are published soon. We also hope that the U.S. Department of Labor will make the effort to understand the situation in the CNMI and will give us clear guidelines with respect to work visa mandated wages. In the meantime, we must live with what we have and continue to monitor developments.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

JUICING

From Page 10

whatever) T-shirt as an upper-end offering. (I'm making up prices for discussion here; I have no idea what the optimal price of a T-shirt is.)

Simple stuff can join the party: In a sari-sari store, a rack of 80-cent sodas can be joined by a selection of fancy $3 iced teas. Expensive stuff can join, too: Yours truly once introduced a $1,500 eco-tour as a premium offering to a very specific segment of tourists.

The opposite case also applies. If some factor makes your customers poorer, not richer, then you can maximize your profits by introducing a cheaper offering in order to mine that part of the market. For example, when the U.S. economy hit the skids, McDonald's was fast on the draw with a bargain $1 dollar menu, and their sales did quite well.

In summary, there is a lot of juice in the yen right now. Saipan's merchants can squeeze some of this juice by aiming their products accordingly.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

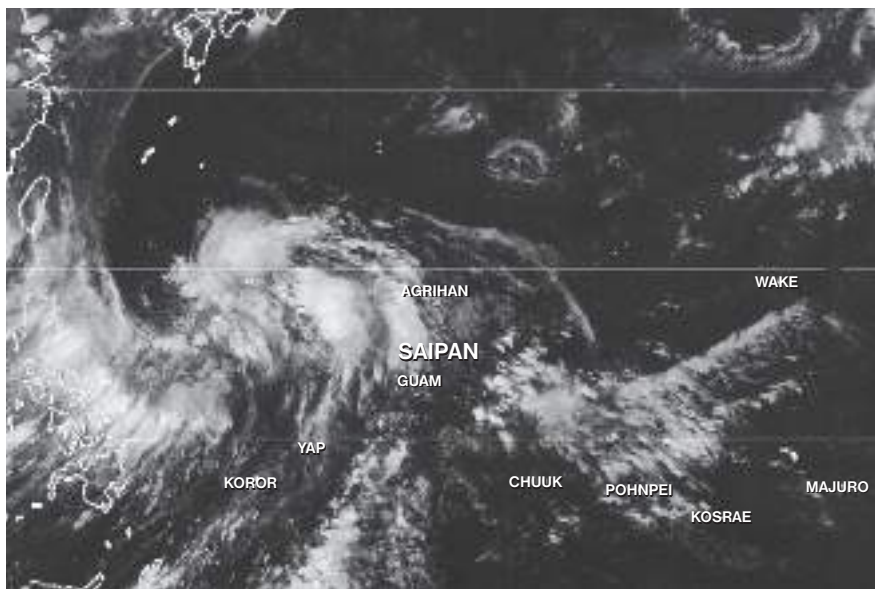
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Rain	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Rain	▲90	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼51
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼66
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲86	▼72
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼74
London	Fog	▲70	▼55
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87	▼76
Melbourne	Rain	▲62	▼51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲93	▼79
New York	Showers	▲81	▼68
Osaka	Sunny	▲95	▼76
Paris	Fog	▲74	▼52
Pusan	Sunny	▲86	▼76
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼64
Salem	Sunny	▲85	▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼59
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲85	▼74
Tokyo	Sunny	▲95	▼80
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from Luzon to a weak circulation centered well north of Palau at 18N132E then turns southeastward to a stronger circulation centered just northwest of Guam at 15N142E. The stronger circulation is currently the subject of a tropical cyclone formation alert issued by the joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN21 PGTW. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring in the vicinity of the trough and circulation near Guam over a large area from north of Palau and Yap to just west of the Marianas. This area is bounded by a line from 8N130E to 13N143E to 20N144E to 20N130E back to 8N130E. A surface trough runs northeastward from 3N146E to 13N153E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near the trough axis southwest of Chuuk within 125 miles of a line from 1N143E to 6N147E and also over Chuuk within 175 miles of a line from 7N151E to 12N157E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering widely scattered to scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Enewetak Atoll and Kosrae within 140 miles of a line from 13N159E to 4N166E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:43 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
8:45 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
4:27 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
9:00 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:25 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:21 AM	1:49 PM
Saturday	1:21 AM	2:44 PM
Sunday	2:23 AM	3:38 PM
Monday	3:26 AM	4:29 PM
Tuesday	4:28 AM	5:17 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:
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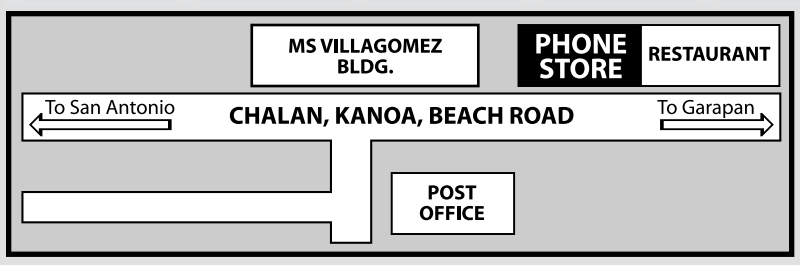

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Letter to the Editor

The politics of the teacher rep post

Teachers and the general public need to know the teacher rep position has become a political football because of my ability to make the position a recognizable one on the board. The teacher rep had real power on the board when I was there even without a vote. There are certain people on the board who do not want the teacher rep with any power sitting on that board. The board has already gotten the Constitution changed to weaken the teacher rep position, which is why they want a teacher rep now so bad. The board's politics is about power, like any other board and having a powerless teacher rep now doesn't mean very much at all so they want a teacher rep. Big deal.

Under the Constitution, teachers did have a right to *bargain* with the board but that was taken out in the past election. It was the Board of Education that got the initiative on the ballot to change the Constitution and voters approved it out of pure ignorance. I worked the polls that day and people kep asking me what the initiative was about but it was too late for me to help them, especially as a poll worker. So teachers have an uphill battle when voters don't even realize what they did to teachers. Teachers are the direct care providers of their children on a daily basis yet they took away your rights! But it doesn't mean teachers can't regain that right if they choose to do so, as collective bargaining is guaranteed by federal Law since the Great Depression. I'm encouraging all teachers to organize at their school by creating a Faculty Club with a president and officers that will include a teacher rep for your school. The club will help the overall quality of the school and at least teachers will be ready to take action whenever our government decides to give back to teachers their constitutional right to have a representative on the board.

While I'm on the subject of constitutional rights, teachers already have the right to elect a teacher representative and the excuse of not having the right legislation is just that—an excuse. The governor has all kinds of constitutional powers and he can use emergency powers or directive power to resolve this issue until legislation can be generated and passed. He can appoint any highly qualified teacher at his discretion to sit in an "acting capacity," rather than let the Constitution go unfulfilled, teachers go without a representative, and the Board remain incomplete. This is nothing but politics, people, and teachers are the political football being tossed between the administration and the board.

It is educational politics that is preventing a teacher rep from being appointed in an acting capacity and the sad part is, no teacher is going to do anything about it. I know from experience that teachers *are not* going to support their teacher rep and they are not going to be vocal or aggressive about their right to representation on the board. The teachers' contracts are the real problem as teachers can still be fired without cause and that fact has every teacher afraid for their job if they speak out. I only escaped the wrath of the system because of my ability to shine so much light on myself that everyone in the CNMI could see me and they couldn't mistreat me—thank God for that—but other teachers aren't so fortunate.

I will admit that any teacher rep on the board will help, as I was able to get a few things done. I am very proud that then chairman Roman Benavente listened to me and started the compensation reform to pay teachers for attending staff development activities beyond normal work hours, even though teachers never even said as much as a thank you to me, which was really the major determining factor in my decision not to run again. I'm sure the board does want teachers' input to help with their decisions but, at the same time, I do wish teachers the very best because I don't want them to get their hopes up too high even when you get a representative on the board. The change in the Constitution and the new desire for a teacher rep is more about education politics and power as the board does not want teachers to have real power on the board to influence policy; they just want them there to give comments and suggestions.

Good luck teachers and my prayers are with you because you deserve more and I know our school system can do better. The PSS administration is trying hard and doing an OK job but we have still fallen short of the 2010 objectives. If teachers are truly empowered to influence BOE policy, it will create the vital check and balance that we need to make progress and the improvements needed for our students to equal and even surpass the level of academic success of their counterparts on the mainland. Our teachers have a right to bargain with BOE—a right that every teacher in America now exercises except for those in the CNMI.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Former BOE Teacher Rep
Kagman, Saipan

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Letters to the Editor

Honorable or wrong?

Thanks for proving my point Honorable Rep. Torres. Not only are you unable to walk the talk, you have a terrible elementary writing style that is vulgar, repulsive, and quite immature. I was appalled at your choice of words, especially coming from an elderly official in our community. I think your comments directly at me were completely uncalled for and unprofessional. Bravo! I do hope you feel like a real man now.

Of course, your qualities as one of our CNMI leaders I will never attempt to simulate or wish to possess. What self-interest on my part are you talking about? The only interest I have is to attempt to convince the leaders at the Legislature that supporting a higher education institution would be in the best interest of the entire community. The only form of self-interest I understood from all the action on the HB17-96 clearly stems from the Legislature. Was it not you that said the additional funds will be used to cut grass and such other neighborhood projects? Get your facts straight before making baseless accusations.

We all put in our fair share of expertise to continuously contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of our government and our work. What have you contributed? Like you so clearly wrote I am only a budget technician in a Finance Office backroom, shuffling papers, doing my work, and contributing to our only higher education institution my 110 percent. I am actually surprised that you have the time to research petty issues as such but not to verify that those expenses are greatly affiliated to the grants that fund them. At least I do my work so why don't you start doing yours instead of finding offensive adjectives in the thesaurus to insult me.

I am completely disappointed in your perspective and I am hopeful some members of the community are too. The way I see it, the only narrow view of the world originates from your office. It is sad that you so arrogantly relay inept ideas but bravely succumb to hearsay. I wonder if the community prefers that our future—our children—be less educated, at least just on Fridays in the meantime. Or maybe they would prefer that you do your part to ensure that taxpayer funds are appropriately distributed.

Better yet, live up to your words and find some way to actually bring prosperity to the people of the Commonwealth, like you so bluntly expressed. I cannot wait to see what and how you will do this. I just hope, aside from legalizing marijuana or expunging criminal records, you actually succeed. Imagine that, direct hit—right on the spot. *Binechu*!

Karla C. Mareham
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Why I voted for the casino bill

My dear people of Saipan, most especially the people of Precinct #1: In reference to (casino) House Bill 17-55, I voted "yes" for the following reasons:

1. The governor made it very clear that he had instructed his Cabinet members to prepare for the worst: reduction-in-force, layoff, 16-hour cuts plus all holidays. The governor also said "no new tax or fees increase," which is also being opposed by the members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

2. The CNMI Retirement Fund is in the verge of collapse. Over 3,000 retirees and over 2,000 active employees will be affected should the NMIRF go broke. The $200 million pension obligation bond is good for the retirement program but it will put an additional burden on the CNMI government, which will hold an election on Nov. 2, 2010.

3. Tourism: Our only market has dropped over the years. MVA and its board of directors are striving to promote the CNMI, a lot of proposals were laid out during the meeting between the governor, MVA, and legislators but, as you all know, it will require a lot of dollars; we are talking of millions of dollars. Guam also wants a big piece of the Chinese and Russian market. I personally believe that once the visa waiver program is approved, Chinese and Russian tourists will go to Guam, reason being that Guam has a lot more to offer, more to see, and it is way cheap (lower prices) compared to Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

4. Poker and other games of chance are in every village within Saipan—near schools, Laundromats, mom-and-pop stores—easy access for low-income and food stamp recipients. Every village community is in favor of zoning all poker establishments in one general area; they want it out of their villages.

5. Saipan, Tinian, and Rota could still be tropical and paradise islands. If the casino bill does pass on Saipan, it will be controlled, monitored and properly enforced and it will not be in every village or near schools. It will curtail all low-income and any public assistance recipients from playing or entering these facilities.

6. I voted "yes" because I am afraid for the worst scenario, where crime will escalate. Crimes will rise to supplement personals needs.

7. Shutting down government offices every Friday will hamper services to the private sector. It would be better if government office hours are changed to reflect the proposed work hour cuts so that public services will continue, especially among permitting agencies (HPO, DEQ, CRM, etc.), and agencies that collect payments such as Rev&Tax, CDA, CNMI courts, BMV, Housing, etc.

I hope to God that our livelihood will improve, but I fear for the worst. May God have mercy on all of us and may God help us all.

Rep. Joseph M. Palacios
17th CNMI Legislature
Capital Hill, Saipan

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Newbie man'amko couple retire on Saipan; win council posts

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Christopher Attao Concepcion! May you continue to be blessed with many more birthdays to come! Party on! Lots of love and warm wishes from your wife Natsu, parents Aldebert and Celina Concepcion, siblings Aldebert Jr. (Carmin and family), Kim (Cole) and Mike (Sheryl), and from your entire Chalan Piao family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy first birthday to Ethan Jayce Hamilton Tomokane, who will be celebrating his special day on Sept. 5, 2010! We love you! Love, Dad, Mom, Brandon, Abbi, and the rest of the family.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Aging Office director Rose Mondala, right, gestures as she talks to Nancy A. Lee-Nannay, one of the winners of the 2010 Saipan Seniors Advisory Council Election held on Aug. 31. Nancy's husband, Earl R. Nannay, not shown in photo, also won a seat in the council.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In 2008, husband and wife Earl R. Nannay and Nancy A. Lee-Nannay came to Saipan to visit friends.

A year after their visit, the Nannays were back and that's when they decided to spend their retirement years on the island.

Originally from Portland, Maine, the Nannay couple thought that this tropical island paradise was an ideal place for them.

Sixty-five-year-old Nancy is a retired ESL teacher and facilitator from Portland High School while 67-year-old Earl served in the maintenance department of the University of Maine.

"I love the beaches here. It's peaceful, quiet, and there's no need to rush when you're here," Nancy told *Saipan Tribune* Tuesday.

Being new on island, the Nannays found a way to spend their leisure time at the Man'amko Center in Garapan.

Despite being novices at the center, the Nannays decided to run for election at the Aging Center in Chinatown.

The Nannays are two of the 16 candidates in the 2010 Saipan Seniors Advisory Council Election held on Aug. 31.

"I decided to run because I want to help the *man'amko*," said Nancy.

Both Nancy and Earl got the vote of confidence of their fellow *man'amko* and each won a seat in the advisory council.

The other winning senior candidates were Jose Torres, Christiana Michael, Francisco Reyes, Meryalen Conrad, Teresita Sorroza, and Rosario Ibanez.

Nancy vowed to coordinate and take part, especially with the *man'amko*'s fundraising activities.

"I'll do the best I can to help them," she added.

Demoted supervisor accuses DCCA secretary of illegal 'reorganization'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A demoted juvenile probation supervisor filed yesterday a complaint before the Civil Service Commission, alleging that Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao illegally reorganized the agency, affecting the rights and positions of civil service employees.

Sylvio S. Ada said his objection to the reorganization resulted in him being subjected to retaliation and harassment.

Ada, through counsel Robert T. Torres, asked the commission to declare Faisao's internal agency reorganization illegal and in violation of the Personnel Service System Rules & Regulations.

Saipan Tribune failed to get comments from Faisao yesterday.

In his memorandum dated July 2, 2010, Faisao merged the Juvenile Probation Unit and the Juvenile Detention Unit, saying the merging "is significant and compulsory to effectively and efficiently operate the deliver the best possible client services, community safety, ensure safety, security and welfare of clients."

Ada asked the commission to direct the return of the DCCA structure and personnel to its former state and to require the approval of the Office of Personnel Management/CSC and the Office of the Governor when making any changes.

He also wants to be reinstated to his prior position as Division of Youth Services' juvenile probation supervisor.

Ada asked OPM to investigate, and if necessary, conduct a supplemental desk audit following Faisao's actions. Ada also wants the DCCA secretary sanctioned, including recommending adverse action.

Torres stated in the complaint that sometime in April or May 2010, the Executive Branch commissioned a desk audit for DCCA and DPS. The preliminary results of the desk audits were expected in September 2010.

Torres said that despite being a preliminary assessment, neither the administration nor OPM directed the implementation of the audit findings or recommendations.

In fact, he said, the OPM director on July 15, 2010, advised that the merging and staff designation would not be implemented during the organizational assessment.

However, Torres said, Faisao, by memorandum, undertook his own internal reorganization without authorization, either by Fitial or OPM.

Torres said as justification for his actions, Faisao cited the Juvenile Justice Act of 2008 and claimed that DCCA's "legal attorney" thoroughly reviewed and concurred the merge.

In this reorganization memorandum, Torres said, Faisao illegally directed a department reorganization affecting covered Civil Service employees such as Ada.

"The reorganization provided no justification and the end result was the demotion of Mr. Ada from a Probation Supervisor to a line juvenile/custody caseworker," he said.

Conversely, Torres said, Faisao illegally promoted two unqualified and inexperienced personnel.

Ada filed a grievance with Division of Youth Services supervisor Debra A. Inos but Torres said both Faisao and Inos ignored the grievance.

He said Ada has been subjected to retaliatory conduct, including a pretextual notice of proposed adverse action; harassment; and other actions.

Saipan's Tracy M. Guerrero back from Toll fellowship

CNMI Director of Courts Tracy M. Guerrero recently returned from the prestigious Toll Fellowship Program held in Lexington, Kentucky, on Aug. 20-25, 2010, where she proudly represented the CNMI.

"This was an amazing opportunity to engage in productive discussions with the best and the brightest across three branches of government from the 50 states and territories," said Guerrero.

"The program was very thoughtfully put together to develop a collegial bonding experience that provided a safe and neutral environment to talk about critical issues such as budget shortfalls. It was reassuring to know that the CNMI is not alone in dealing with its budget crisis. Leaders from the three branches of government in the CNMI would benefit greatly by participating in a similar leadership conference to enhance mutual understanding and appreciation."

Guerrero has served as the Director of Courts for the CNMI Judiciary since August 2008 and was nominated to attend the 2010 Toll Fellows by Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan.

Before returning to Saipan, Guerrero worked as a senior analyst for the U.S. Government Accountability Office in San Francisco, California, conducting performance audits of federal programs.

Guerrero holds an MBA in Finance and Entrepreneurship from California State University Hayward and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California at Berkeley.

Guerrero

The annual week-long seminar, named in honor of Henry Toll, a Colorado senator who founded The Council of State Governments in 1933, seeks to empower leaders from all three branches of state government. This year's dynamic program focused on adaptive leadership, policy development, media and constituent relations, and leadership and institutional changes. The experience gives these leaders perspectives they would not ordinarily obtain during the course of their regular governmental service.

Previous Toll Fellows have gone on to build careers of great distinction. Alumni of the program currently include four governors, seven lieutenant governors, eight secretaries of state, five members of Congress and one member of President Obama's Cabinet, Labor Secretary Hilda Solis.

The Henry Toll Fellowship Program is one of the nation's premier leadership development programs for state government officials and the most widely recognized one serving all three branches of government.

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Mayor's office employees receive notices; no work on Fridays

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 32 full-time employees at the Saipan Mayor's Office were given notices on Sept. 1 and 2 that their work hours will be cut by 16 hours per pay period starting Oct. 1, 2010.

Human resource manager Martha Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that she issued the notices to majority of employees on Sept. 1, while two got them on Sept. 2 because they were off Wednesday.

The work hour cuts will take effect 30 days after receipt of the reduction-in-force notices, in time for the start of fiscal year 2011 on Oct. 1.

"It's very unfortunate that we have to experience this reduction in hours," said Sablan.

She said people are already living payday to payday at 80 work hours. With the work hour cuts, many affected government employees will have to seek other forms of assistance, she said.

"Some people may now qualify for food stamps or other assistance. It's very unfortunate that we have to go through this," she added.

Although the work hour cuts were expected as ordered by the administration, Sablan said they were "just hoping that it didn't have to happen."

Sablan pointed out, however, that "all have to contribute in helping the government stay in operation."

"Otherwise, we could risk ceasing certain operations, which I think would be very detrimental to the economy and the community," she said.

Sablan also acknowledged the ripple effect of the work hour cuts because over 1,500 employees within the Executive Branch will have diminished buying power.

She said household heads like her will be more affected since they provide for their families. She said these affected employees "will probably be looking for part-time jobs now."

"I hope that the government can come up with some other plans to provide jobs for these people to supplement their income," Sablan added.

No work Fridays

With the reduction in work hours, Sablan said the administration arm of the mayor's office will be closed on Fridays.

Operations will remain open on Fridays but the employees who work on these days will have to take another day off during the week when it's "not so busy," she said.

Even with this setup, Sablan said the mayor's office will continue to serve the public to the best of their ability.

"With our limited manpower and the reduction in hours, we will still continue to strive to provide essential services for the community," said Sablan.

Summer Back-2-School sales promo at Modern Stationery

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Back-to-school shopping has never been this easy for parents and students alike as Modern Stationery brings to the community their annual Summer Back-2-School sale promotion.

Launched on July 23, the Summer Back-2-School promo will run until Sept. 26 to accommodate learners in both public and private schools.

The Summer Back-2-School sale offers students and parents their school needs at very affordable prices since the promo features a 30-percent markdown on all regular-priced school supplies.

Shoppers will get an extra 10-percent discount on school bags, calculators, dictionaries, lunch bags, laptop bags, and a wide range of children's books.

Teachers can also take advantage of greater discounts on diskettes and lesson plan books, specially marked down at 50-percent.

"Teachers and school administrators will be delighted to find our new arrival of learning materials and educational toys," said Modern Stationery.

The store also has a special promo for its 2 GB to 8 GB Kingston flash drives, with prices from $15 up.

They also accept special orders to accommodate patrons' requests.

For more than 30 years now, Modern Stationery and Trading Co., doing business as Modern Office Supply, has been a complete and reliable supplier of school and office supplies, including furniture, and provides the best deals to fit any budget.

"We thank our customers for their continued support as we are committed to bringing in quality, fun and exciting educational school items to meet the needs of teachers, parents, and students of all ages," said Modern Stationery.

Modern Stationery has two outlets. The Garapan branch is open from 9am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday, and from 9am to 5pm on Sunday. The San Jose branch is open from 8am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday, and from 9am to 5pm on Sunday.

For more information, contact 234-6832.

The façade of Modern Stationery in San Jose. For over 30 years now, Modern Stationery has been the most complete and reliable supplier of school and office supplies as well as furniture in the CNMI.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Another tropical depression spotted

A tropical depression is developing northwest of Guam and is expected to become a tropical storm today.

The U.S. National Weather Service in Guam said, however, that no tropical cyclone watches or warnings are in effect in the Marianas region.

As of 1pm yesterday, Tropical Depression 10W was moving northwest at 22 miles per hour, with its center located 580 miles northwest of Guam and 625 miles north of Yap.

Packing maximum sustained winds at 35 miles per hour, the tropical depression was expected to slowly intensify and may upgrade to a tropical storm last night.

The depression is moving away from the region.

As of 7am yesterday, the center was about 450 miles northwest of Guam and 550 miles north of Yap. At that time, it was moving at 17 miles per hour, with maximum sustained winds of 30 miles per hour.

The depression brought rain to many areas on Saipan yesterday morning and late afternoon. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Froilan makes last pitch to Senate: Pass casino, budget bills

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) is urging senators to pass his casino bill and the $132 million budget bill when the Senate holds its session on Tinian this afternoon.

"They have to think about what is good for the CNMI. The casino bill is not for the benefit of Saipan only. The casino bill will generate revenue for everybody," he said.

His casino bill gives Rota and Tinian 25 percent each from gaming revenue, while Saipan gets 50 percent.

Tenorio said he would agree to not raising lawmakers' annual discretionary fund to $130,000 from the current level of $86,796.

He said he would be glad to reduce it to $85,000.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said her committee recommends maintaining the current amount of lawmakers' discretionary fund and the leadership account.

Tenorio, a former governor, said if he could only give minority members only $30,000 a year, the he would do it. He said members of the majority are doing the bulk of the work anyway.

"But the constitution says we should all get equal amount," he said.

Tenorio said the Senate, instead of increasing the discretionary fund to $130,000 from over $86,000, should just give the difference to the leadership account.

He said while the Constitution allows $400,000 in leadership account for the House, the current level is only at $90,000.

"This is not enough for eight committees and three presiding officers," he said.

Both the House and Senate leaderships said they are willing to work cooperatively once a conference committee on the budget is formed.

Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) said nine-member Senate will have a quorum to act on the budget bill, barely a month before the start of fiscal year 2011 on Oct. 1.

Without a budget before Oct. 1, the government will have to shut down, as required by last year's constitutional amendment.

Concerned citizens have called on lawmakers not to increase their discretionary funding when most government employees will be receiving up to 25 percent cuts in their salaries. They want lawmakers to give additional funding to the Northern Marianas College and public schools.

Court denies NMI govt motion for new trial in Peter-Palican's lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court on Wednesday denied the CNMI government's motion to hold a new trial in the lawsuit filed by Emerenciana Peter-Palican, who sued the government for her termination in 2006 as special assistant for Women's Affairs.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge John C. Coughenour said the CNMI government and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial are clearly displeased with the outcome of trial, but failed to provide legal support for their claims of error.

"Without a showing of such support, no new trial is warranted," said Coughenour in a four-page order.

He pointed out that the rest of Fitial's motion is nothing more than a relitigation of issues that the court has already decided.

"Defendants failed to present a manifest error of law, newly discovered evidence, or a change in the law," he said.

The federal court in March ordered the CNMI government to pay Peter-Palican $216,049.88 in back wages. The court also ordered the Commonwealth and Fitial to reappoint her within 30 days to a government position that has a salary similar to or greater than what she used to have.

The federal court also awarded Peter-Palican $29,407.50 in attorney's fees plus $450 in court costs.

In July, assistant attorney general Gilbert J. Birnbrich, on behalf of the CNMI government and Fitial, asked the federal court to amend its findings and conclusions as well as clarify its judgment by dismissing Peter-Palican's claims for breach of contract, promissory estoppel, violation of her First Amendment rights, and violation of her due process rights.

Birnbrich asked the court to reverse its finding that allowed Peter-Palican to recover damages.

Birnbrich asserted that the court's reversal in mid-trial of its decision to permit evidence on the issue of liability prejudiced the defendants and affected their rights.

He said retrial on all issues, including liability, is appropriate in order to cure the prejudicial treatment of Fitial and the government.

In his order, Coughenour said the court's decision not to rule on all claims does not constitute clear error.

Coughenour found the argument that the court's conduct of the trial prejudiced the defendants to be unsupported by law.

Free health screening for Filipino workers on Saipan this Sunday

The Philippine Consulate General announced Wednesday its "Free Health Screening for OFWs" for the third quarter this Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010, at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza Building. Registration is from 6am to 8am and the actual conduct of the activity will be from 8am to noon.

This free health screening program by the Philippine Consulate General, Philippine Overseas Labor Office, and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is done in cooperation with the Filipino Volunteer Medical Team, CNMI Pharmacist Association and Hardt Eye Clinic.

The medical services include blood pressure, blood sugar, and vision checkups. OFWs who want to avail of the blood sugar level checkup must avoid taking solid and liquid food from midnight to the time of the actual testing.

In 2009, a total of 1,601 OFWs benefited from the free health screening program, of whom 1,228 OFWs availed of the blood pressure and blood sugar checkups, while 373 OFWs availed of the vision checkup. Also, during the first and second quarter of 2010, there were around 478 and 381 OFWs who availed of the medical services, respectively. ***(PR)***

Micronesia anti-illegal fishing operation tag 10 violations

GUAM—From Aug. 16 to 26, patrol boats from Coast Guard Sector Guam, the Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Kiribati participated in "Operation Island Chief," a multinational exercise aimed at curtailing illegal, undocumented, and unreported fishing within the Western Pacific. The exercise used the Coast Guard cutters *Assateague* and *Sequoia*, and seven Pacific patrol boats from various island nations, along with aerial support from the U.S. Navy Commander Task Force 72.

This exercise leveraged partnerships with the 14th Coast Guard District, the U.S. Navy, Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, and the Western Central Pacific Fisheries Commission to locate, identify, and verify the licenses and documentation of hundreds of fishing vessels. Taking place over the various Pacific island nations' exclusive economic zones, this is the most complex Operation Island Chief conducted to date.

More than 350 fishing vessels were monitored during the operation. Ninety-nine vessels were sighted and 20 boarded. *Sequoia* crews identified 10 violations of WCPFC regulations for two foreign fishing vessels on the high seas, forwarding case packages to the vessels flag state for prosecution.

The operation also made strong use of Shiprider Agreements enacted between the various governments. These agreements allow Coast Guard cutters to assist foreign nations by providing a platform for the officers of that country to conduct law enforcement operations within their exclusive economic zone, staging from the Coast Guard cutter. Officers from Palau and Federated States of Micronesia were embarked aboard *Assateague* and *Sequoia* for the duration of the exercise.

Palau and Federated States of Micronesia rely on a healthy fishing industry and enforcement of fishing regulations in their exclusive economic zone to maintain a strong economy. By conducting joint exercises, Coast Guard Sector Guam and its Micronesian partner agencies increase their overall law enforcement effectiveness and share knowledge and techniques that enhance regional security. ***(USCG)***

O'Malley: Villagomez, Santos couple present no new arguments in motion

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government asserts that former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez, James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos presented no new arguments in the motion they recently filed in federal court.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley, counsel for the U.S. government, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to deny the defendants' motion for reconsideration of the court's ruling that rejected their motion to settle record in the case.

O'Malley said the defendants present no new arguments, except to say that the court "misperceived the nature and scope of its authority" when it rejected the defendants' claim.

"To adopt the defendants' interpretation, and to deprive this court of its right to reject claims that lack prima facie credibility, will enable attorneys to keep trial records open indefinitely simply by filing an affidavit, and claiming there is now a 'difference' about the record," said O'Malley in the U.S. government's response to the motion for reconsideration.

Villagomez and the Santos couple, in their motion to settle record, had asked the court to permit further briefing and conduct further proceedings as appropriate to determine what truly occurred in the district court in so far as the question of public exclusion from the jury selection is concerned.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett denied the motion.

Attorney Dennis P. Riordan, on behalf of Villagomez and the Santos couple, filed a motion for reconsideration, asserting that the court misperceived the nature and scope of its authority under Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure.

In response, O'Malley said the defendants have yet to address what the prosecution sees as essential questions about how such a hearing would be conducted.

O'Malley said the matter could not be decided without the participation of then U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex Munson.

"Do the defendants plan to subpoena him? Who will bear the costs of flying the judge and other necessary witnesses back to Saipan?" he pointed out.

In reply, Riordan said if the court desires to hear from Munson, it could simply request that he submit a declaration. "There would be no need to fly Judge Munson [or anyone else] back to Saipan," Riordan said.

The telephonic arguments on the defendants' motion for consideration was set for today, Friday, at 8am.

Jesse Camacho Borja (D)
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For NMI Delegate to U.S. Congress

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- ☑ Gold Broken Chains ..... up to $1,000
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Business

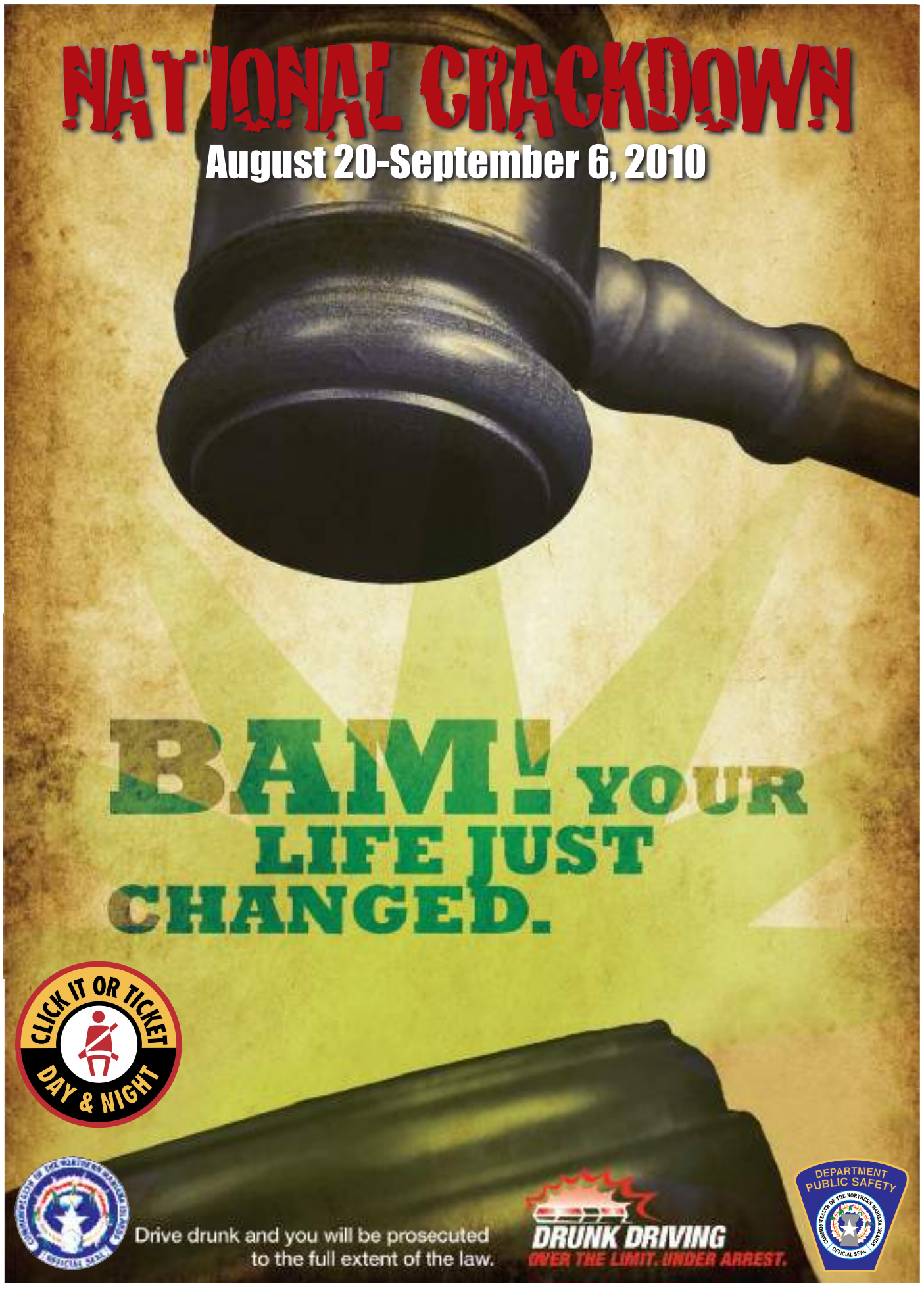
Personnel record keeping, EEOC seminar on Sept. 8

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce have teamed up with Carlsmith Ball, LLP to offer a seminar on "The Legal Aspects of Personnel Record Keeping and EEO Compliance," which will be presented by attorneys Marcia Schultz and Vincent Seman of the Carlsmith Ball law firm.

This half-day seminar will be held at the Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret next Wednesday, Sept. 8, from 9am to 12pm, with lunch to follow.

Are you doing a good job keeping all employee records in one place, including medical records and I-9 forms? Think again: certain confidential records must be secured separately from an employee's general personnel file. You say that you are a small business owner and you only hire residents so you haven't been using an I-9 form? Whoops—the I-9 form is required for all new employees, both resident and nonresident. Thinking of throwing out personnel files once they are 10 years old? If you do, you may run afoul of the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009. Do you throw away applications of individuals whom you don't hire when a position is open? Ouch! That could lead you to a courtroom if an applicant later files a case against you for not hiring them. Do you know how to tell if you are discriminating? Unintentional discrimination is illegal too. Learn the different ways an employee can prove discrimination and how to spot and fix problems before an employee sues. These are just some of the many common errors and misconceptions about the legal aspects of personnel record keeping and EEO compliance that will be presented at this seminar. The training could help you stay out of the courtroom and avoid hefty penalties for violating federal laws since you won't be able to claim ignorance as your defense.

The cost of the seminar (including lunch and handouts) is $25 for individuals who are a member of either SHRM CNMI or the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and $35 for individuals who are not a member of either organization. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat now by contacting Janice Tenorio at 233-7150 or e-mailing her at coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***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Group: China failing to keep WTO access pledges

BEIJING (AP)—China has failed to honor promises to the World Trade Organization to open its oil and phone markets, a European business group said Thursday, adding to complaints of worsening conditions for foreign companies.

European companies believe market-oriented reforms have stalled and Beijing's treatment of foreign enterprises is becoming more unfair, the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China said in a report.

The complaints echoed criticism by American business groups that Beijing is improperly using regulation to promote its companies at the expense of foreign rivals in violation of market-opening pledges.

Premier Wen Jiabao, China's top economic official, responded in April to rising complaints by promising companies a "level playing field." But business groups say Beijing has yet to repeal discriminatory measures and is moving ahead with other restrictions.

"I do believe the words of Premier Wen when he says that foreign investment is welcome," said the EU chamber's president, Jacques de Boisseson, ahead of the report's release.

BoH to host free seminar on budgeting

As part of its Smart Money series of seminars, the Bank of Hawaii is offering this month a free seminar on "Budgeting."

This workshop will familiarize attendees with the tools they would need to create their own personal financial plan and help them make the most of their money.

In this seminar, they will learn:

- How to create financial objectives;
- How to analyze your spending; and
- Strategies to keep you on track to meet your goals.

On Saipan, the seminar will be held on Sept. 16, 2010, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm, at Bank of Hawaii's Garapan Branch along Pale Arnold Road in Puerto Rico. The speakers are Marc Parico and Joanne Aldan.

The same seminar will also be offered in Koror, Palau.

Bank of Hawaii's Smart Money Seminars are held as a community service throughout the year. They are free and open to anyone to attend. For more information, visit www.boh.com/pacific-seminars.

One may also request a free seminar for the community, co-workers, or non-profit group. Just go to https://www.boh.com/landing-pages/965.asp to request for one. ***(BoH)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Group: China failing to keep WTO access pledges

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Manufacturing in US and aboard lifts economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Manufacturing is growing in the United States and abroad, easing fears that the economy might be on the verge of a second recession. The U.S. sector expanded for a 13th straight month in August, coinciding with gains in Chinese manufacturing and auto sales. The news gave Wall Street a boost, with investors overlooking dismal reports on U.S. auto sales and construction spending. The Dow Jones industrial average closed 253 points up. China's robust growth raises hopes that it will step up its consumption of U.S. exports and help sustain the U.S. economic recovery.

Ex-Lehman CEO says regulators refused to save firm

WASHINGTON (AP)—The former chief of Lehman Brothers told a panel investigating the financial crisis that the Wall Street firm could have been rescued, but regulators refused to help—even though they later bailed out other big banks. Richard S. Fuld Jr. told the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission at a hearing that Lehman did everything it could to limit its risks and save itself in the fall of 2008. "Lehman's demise was caused by uncontrollable market forces, and the incorrect perception and accompanying rumors that Lehman did not have sufficient capital to support its investments," Fuld testified.

Nation

Police kill gunman who held 3 at Discovery Channel

SILVER SPRING, Md. (AP)—A man who railed against the Discovery Channel's environmental programming for years burst into the company's headquarters with at least one explosive device strapped to his body Wednesday and took three people hostage at gunpoint before police shot him to death, officials said.

Lee

The hostages—two Discovery Communications employees and a security guard—were unhurt after the four-hour standoff. Montgomery County Police Chief Thomas Manger said tactical officers moved in after officers monitoring the gunman on building security cameras saw him pull out a handgun and point it at a hostage.

An explosive device on the gunman's body detonated when police shot him, Manger said. Police were trying to determine whether two boxes and two backpacks the gunman had also contained explosives.

A law enforcement official speaking on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing said authorities had identified James J. Lee as the likely suspect. Police had not released the gunman's identity.

ACROSS THE NATION

Island evacuations start as Earl nears East Coast

NAGS HEAD, N.C. (AP)—Hurricane Earl steamed toward the Eastern Seaboard on Wednesday as communities from North Carolina to New England kept a close eye on the forecast, worried that even a slight shift in the storm's predicted offshore track could put millions of people in the most densely populated part of the country in harm's way. Vacationers along North Carolina's dangerously exposed Outer Banks took advantage of the typical picture-perfect day just before a hurricane arrives to pack their cars and flee inland, cutting short their summer just before Labor Day weekend.

Dead suspect may be linked to 4 slayings in Calif.

VALLEJO, Calif. (AP)—A murder suspect who led officers on a high-speed chase with his dead girlfriend in the passenger seat is a central figure in the investigation of at least four killings, authorities said Wednesday. Efren Valdemoro, 38, was shot and killed by California Highway Patrol officers Tuesday night after refusing to drop a meat cleaver, CHP spokesman Sgt. Trent Cross said. The chase for Valdemoro, who had been wanted in the death of a 73-year-old man last weekend, ended in a Richmond strip mall.

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TAFP

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Assistive technology is often specialized and customized to the needs of the individual. The TAFP can assist in directing consumers to skilled advisors and providers to help determine the right device.

Examples of the broad range of adaptive equipment and services that can be considered include:

- Wheelchairs / motorized scooters.
- Assistive Technology training and repair of devices
- Hearing and Vision Aids
- Augmentative Communication Device
- Modified Vehicles and Vehicle Modifications
- Home Modifications and Ramps
- Recreational Equipment (must be directly related to the disability)
- Prosthetics and Orthotics
- And more……

New Vision

The TAFP was created under the Title III of the Assistive Technology (Alternative Financing Mechanism Program). It provides a unique funding alternative for many who have no other options. The real life benefits of this affordable financing alternative include greater independence, productivity, and community participation.

The loans under the TAFP are administered by the Coalition for Anti-Stigma of Mental Illness in the CNMI (CAMI), a Community Based Organization (CBO) and underwritten by the Bank of Saipan.

The Trankilu Alternative Financing Program (TAFP) was created with Federal funds to help CNMI Residents with disabilities obtain assistive technology, home modifications, or services through low interest loans. The mission of the TAFP is to promote alternative funding resources for CNMI Residents with disabilities to acquire their independence and improve their quality of life. The TAFP offers creative and flexible services to open doors for individuals who might not otherwise be eligible for borrowing.

Q&A Questions & Answers

Who is eligible?
Any CNMI resident with a disability, or a caregiver of a person of any age with a disability can apply for a low interest loan to purchase assistive technology. To receive a loan you must be determined creditworthy by our loan review criteria.

How much can I borrow?
There is no minimum amount. Individuals can borrow up to $3,000 and beyond with exceptions. The TAFP will consider individuals with no credit history or poor credit. Special consideration is given to disability and medically related credit issues.

How do I apply?
To obtain a TAFP application visit the website, ***www.cnmicdd.org***
1310 Anatahan Drive, Captiol Hill, Saipan or any Bank of Saipan Branch on Saipan, Rota or Tinian.
For assistance in completing an application contact the:

Trankilu Alternative Financing Loan Program (TAFP)
P.O. Box 502565, Saipan, MP 96950

or **schedule an appointment** from **7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
Monday to Friday or **call us** at:

Tel.: 670-287-7021 **Marketing: 670-287-7013**
TDD/TTY.: 670-664-7005 **Fax: 670-664-7030**

World

US forces still in fight at end of combat mission

HAWIJA, Iraq (AP)—Even as President Barack Obama was announcing the end of combat in Iraq, American soldiers were sealing off a northern village early Wednesday as their Iraqi partners raided houses and arrested dozens of suspected insurgents.

While the Obama administration has dramatically reduced the number of troops and rebranded the mission, the operation in Hawija was a reminder that U.S. forces are still engaged in hunting down and killing al-Qaida militants—and could still have to defend themselves against attacks.

That reality was front and center at a change-of-command ceremony in one of Saddam Hussein's former palaces outside Baghdad that the American military now uses as its headquarters. Officials warned of a tough road ahead as the U.S. moves into the final phase of the 7 1/2-year war.

Obama

Of paramount concern is Iraqi leaders' continued bickering, six months after parliamentary elections, over forming a new government—a political impasse that could further endanger stability and fuel a diminished but still dangerous insurgency.

"Iraq still faces a hostile enemy who is determined to hinder progress," Gen. Lloyd Austin, the newly installed commander of the just under 50,000 U.S. troops still in Iraq, told the swelling crowd that was clad in military fatigues and political suits. "Make no mistake, our military forces here and those of the Iraqi nation remain committed to ensuring that our friends in Iraq succeed."

Vice President Joe Biden presided over the gathering at al-Faw palace, Saddam's gaudy former hunting lodge replete with fake marble walls and a huge chandelier made of recycled plastic.

The remaining U.S. forces in Iraq would be "as combat ready, if need be, as any in our military," Biden said, flanked by Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen for the 75-minute ceremony, which also changed the U.S. mission's name from "Operation Iraqi Freedom" to "Operation New Dawn."

Three years ago, about 170,000 U.S. troops were in Iraq. Of those who remain, fewer than 10 percent—or 4,500—are special forces who will regularly go on raids and capture terrorists, albeit alongside Iraqi troops.

Hamas leader rejects talks with Israel

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—The top Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip rejected compromise with Israel in a fiery speech Wednesday, a day after gunmen killed four Israelis in a strong reminder that the Islamic militant group cannot be ignored in any Mideast deal.

President Barack Obama denounced the West Bank ambush as he launched a two-day summit marking the first Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in nearly two years.

"The message should go out to Hamas and everyone else who is taking credit for these heinous crimes that this is not going to stop us," he said after greeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House.

Hamas has claimed responsibility for Tuesday's shootings, a vivid reminder that the Iranian-backed group may be locked out of the peace negotiations but remains a key player in determining their outcome.

Late Wednesday, gunmen wounded two Israelis in a drive-by shooting in the northern West Bank, the military said. Assailants in a car overtook an Israeli vehicle and opened fire, seriously wounding an Israeli man. The vehicle crashed, injuring a woman.

In a text message to reporters early Thursday, Hamas claimed responsibility.

The method resembled the fatal shooting on Tuesday in the southern part of the territory.

In an interview with AP Television News just before the Wednesday shooting, Gaza strongman Mahmoud Zahar indicated that more attacks could be expected. "Our resistance is continuous," he said. "We have to concentrate on the West Bank in order to achieve (its) liberation."

Earlier, in an address to Hamas members, Zahar said the movement would resist peace efforts and criticized the Palestinian president for joining the negotiations.

Government controls message on rescue timeline

SAN JOSE MINE, Chile (AP)—Chilean President Sebastian Pinera said Wednesday he hopes 33 miners trapped nearly a half-mile underground will be home by Christmas—a lengthy rescue timeline that doesn't square with experts' shorter estimates but could reflect a political strategy aimed at avoiding unmet expectations.

The mine disaster, which began with an underground collapse Aug. 5 and captured the world's attention when the men were found alive 17 days later, presents both huge opportunities and risks for the billionaire-turned-politician who took office earlier this year.

"Pinera is gambling his presidency on this accident," said Patricio Navia, a professor of Latin American studies at New York University. "Of course, he has to get them out now. It would be impossible for him to govern if the rescue operation fails."

Officials at all levels, from the mining minister to Pinera, have vigorously rejected shorter rescue timelines. But when discussing their own projections, they add that they also are "exploring other options," an apparent acknowledgment it could happen faster than they are saying.

In his speech Wednesday, Pinera said there is no chance the miners will be freed by Chile's independence day celebrations, which begin Sept. 18, but added that the government is doing all it can "so we can celebrate Christmas and New Year's" with them.

While no one claims the men could be rescued in weeks, the government's timeline is extremely conservative—twice as long as it should take, experts say.

"Four months? Never," Eduardo Hurtado, a geologist on the team that drilled the first bore hole to make contact with the miners, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "If there are no major mechanical problems, this can be done in two months, three at the most."

WORLD BRIEFS

RP massacre trial delay irks victims' kin

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A judge on Wednesday postponed the trial of 197 people, including members of a politically powerful clan, accused in the massacre of 57 people traveling in an election convoy in the southern Philippines. The last November convoy in Maguindanao province included 30 journalists and other media employees, making it the deadliest single attack on media workers in the world. Prosecutors had planned to present at least one witness Wednesday in a courtroom in a maximum-security Manila prison, but Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes moved the session to Sept. 8 after defense lawyers said they needed more time to study a pretrial case summary.

Official: 3 bombs kill 25 at Pakistan Shiite march

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Three bombs ripped through a Shiite Muslim religious procession in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore on Wednesday, killing 25 people and wounding about 150 others, officials said. The explosions appeared to be the latest in a string of attacks by Sunni extremists against the minority Shiites they consider infidels. Allied with al-Qaida and the Taliban, the bombers are also seeking to destabilize Pakistan's U.S.-backed government. The blasts were the first major attacks since Pakistan was hit by devastating floods more than a month ago. Lahore, the country's political capital and home to much of its military elite, has been regularly targeted by militants over the past two years.

Mexico confirms 2nd migrant survived massacre

MEXICO CITY (AP)—A second migrant survived the massacre of 72 Central and South Americans near the border with the U.S., Mexican authorities confirmed Wednesday, and they said he has given information that helped their investigation. Authorities had kept secret the information about the other survivor, a Honduran, to protect him, said a spokesman for the Attorney General's Office, Ricardo Najera. As of Tuesday, the only survivor known publicly was Luis Freddy Lala Pomavilla, an 18-year-old Ecuadorean who escaped and alerted Mexican marines. They found the bodies Aug. 24 on a ranch in Tamaulipas state just about 100 miles (161 kilometers) from the Texas border.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
NMHC RFP 2010-010

HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS (HQS) INSPECTIONS FOR THE FOUR (4) HOUSING UNITS IN GARAPAN, ANNEX II

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, Ms. Marcie M. Tomokane, is soliciting Proposals from interested, qualified firms/individuals to perform **HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS (HQS) INSPECTIONS FOR THE FOUR (4) HOUSING UNITS IN GARAPAN, ANNEX II,** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This (HQS) Inspection Services is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under Public Indian Housing – Housing Choice Voucher Admin Funds.

Local Business Preference as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local proposers in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001. Proposals procedures shall be in full compliance with section 4-103 of the regulations.

The Scope of Work (SOW) will be available on or after **Tuesday, September 7, 2010**, at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Office, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday except on legal holiday. No fees required in obtaining the proposal package.

Pre-Proposal Conference is schedule on **Tuesday, September 14, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Office Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Ms. Zerlyn A. Taimanao, Program & Housing Manager, NMHC, Saipan, or fax to (670) 234-9021 no later than **Tuesday, September 14, 2010, 4:30 p.m.,** local time.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach, with details how the work will be accomplished, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (names and experience) not to exceed twelve (12) pages. Note that firm or individual that submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a sub-consultant on another proposal. However, only sub-consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications - (30 pts.): Brief history of the firm or individual.
2. Experience of the Firm or Individual – (30 pts.): Demonstrate experience of the firm or individual, including past experience in conducting (HQS) inspections.
3. Quality of Technical proposal – (20 pts.): Thoroughness of actual submission and methodology.
4. Cost of Services – (20 pts.): The proposer's cost should be structure to allow for a basic "group" rate and a "single inspection" rate.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **NMHC RFP 2010-010: Housing Quality Standards (HQS) Inspections for the Four (4) Housing Units in Garapan, Annex II.** For proposal within the CNMI, one (1) signed original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **Wednesday, September 22, 2010**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) workings for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to submit proposal must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **September 22, 2010**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) signed original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be marked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal services of a foreign country no later than **September 22, 2010** AND must be received no later than **October 5, 2010**. However, if no Notice of Intent to Propose were received from proposers outside of the CNMI, the proposals will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, **September 22, 2010**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms or individuals regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified firm or individual at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm or individual, then additional firms or individual maybe selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reason price is agreed upon;

The successful proposer(s) will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations Section 3-301.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charge to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Expenditure Authority

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Frankenstein cited over monstrous behavior in Ohio

CINCINNATI (AP)—Ohio police say a Toby Keith fan named Forrest Frankenstein threatened them and beat his head against a partition in their cruiser after his arrest. The 39-year-old Frankenstein appeared Monday before a judge who asked why he "went crazy" at the Aug. 27 concert in Cincinnati. Frankenstein replied that he had been drinking and didn't really remember anything. Frankenstein, of Hamilton, is being held on $80,000 bond on counts of menacing, disorderly conduct and vandalism. Keith's hits include a song that states: "You ain't much fun since I quit drinkin'."

Hiker accidentally shoots himself in the rear

WENATCHEE, Wash. (AP)—A hiker on Blewett Pass shot himself in the butt when he put a handgun in his back pocket. The Chelan County sheriff's office said the 52-year-old Snohomish man had moved his .40-caliber handgun from its holster to his back pocket Saturday to see if that position would be more comfortable. The Wenatchee World reported the gun fired the bullet down his left buttock and left leg, coming to rest just above the knee. He was treated at Central Washington Hospital in Wenatchee.

Golfer's swing snags rock, sparks fire in S. Calif

IRVINE, Calif. (AP)—Forget "Fore!" "Fire!" was the cry of the day for a golfer whose off-target swing sparked a 12-acre blaze in Southern California. The golfer at the Shady Canyon Golf Course in Irvine landed a shot in the rough Saturday. On his next swing, his club snagged a rock, causing a spark that lit the rough ablaze and eventually attracted 150 firefighters to the scene. Fire officials say the fire burned through the rough, into vegetation next to the course and over two dry, brushy hillsides. No charges were filed against the golfer, whose name was withheld.

Cell phone left in Ala. burglary leads to arrest

RUSSELLVILLE, Ala. (AP)—Police investigating a home burglary in Russellville found a surprising clue—a cell phone that got left behind. Franklin County District Attorney Joey Rushing said the phone was left near where a computer was taken in the weekend burglary. Investigators began calling some of the phone numbers and determined the phone belonged to a 19-year-old who was on probation for a previous burglary. The prosecutor said police also got surveillance video from the Wal-Mart in Russellville that shows the suspect cashing in coins believed to have been taken during the burglary. Rushing said, "It helps when you've got stupid criminals." The cell phone's owner, Tyler Blake Garrison, was questioned and charged with burglary. He remained in jail Wednesday.

Conn. driver falls from car on I-95, Dodge goes on

DARIEN, Conn. (AP)—Connecticut State Police say a man fell out of his car onto Interstate 95 and watched his vehicle drive on for about two-tenths of a mile before it crashed into a pole. Troopers said they're not sure why 51-year-old Robert Craig of Killingworth fell out of his 2006 Dodge Charger late Tuesday morning in Darien near Exit 10. Police said Craig was treated for minor injuries at Stamford Hospital. State police said Craig fell onto the highway but wasn't struck by any vehicles. They say other motorists stopped to help him and get him to safety. Troopers said the car continued down the highway before striking a light pole and metal guardrail on the right shoulder.

'Robbery drill' creates real trauma for Fla. pair

MELBOURNE, Fla. (AP)—A 72-year-old Florida woman was accidentally shot by her husband during a "robbery drill" the couple staged to practice how they'd respond to an intruder. The Brevard County Sheriff's Office said Arnold and Patricia Morris had little experience with guns, and the shooting Sunday was an clearly accidental. Arnold Morris called 911 after the .380-caliber pistol fired, and his wife was airlifted to the hospital for surgery. The two were fortunate to escape serious injury. Patricia Morris was expected to make a full recovery.

Men lucky to be alive after driving under semi

GETTYSBURG, S.D. (AP)—A South Dakota sheriff said two Minnesota men are lucky to be alive after they drove underneath a stalled semi truck towing a flatbed. Potter County Sheriff Alan McClain said he's amazed the men were not decapitated. McClain said the crash happened about five miles west of Gettysburg on U.S. Highway 212, about 6:15 a.m. Saturday when it was still dark. He said the semi missed its turn and attempted a U-turn, and the tractor wheels went off the road and the semi got hung up. Potter said a pickup truck carrying 29-year-old Shane Hanson, of Clearwater, Minn., and 36-year-old Chad Fobbe, of Monticello, Minn., came down the highway and went under the trailer. The men were able to exit the vehicle. McClain said both men were treated at a Pierre hospital and released the same day.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP10-REV-117

SUBMISSION: TUESDAY, OCT. 05, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL ON SAIPAN CNMI FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE/DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENT AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIM

/s/ **ROBERT A. SCHRACK**
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
for the
Saipan International Airport Restroom Repairs and Water Pump Improvements
AIP Nos. 3-69-0002-62/65/66 (Project No. CPA-SA-002-09)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management services for the Saipan International Airport Restroom Repairs and Water Pump Improvements, AIP Nos. 3-69-0002-62/65/66 (Project No. CPA-SA-002-09), Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

A. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope;

C. Key personnel's professional qualifications, experience and availability for the proposed services; their reputation and professional integrity and competence; and their knowledge of FAA regulations, policies and procedures;

D. Quality of projects previously undertaken and capability to complete projects without having major cost escalations or overruns;

E. Past performance on contracts including cost control, quality of work and current workload and demonstrated ability to meet schedules and deadlines;

F. Firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and the ability to perform the construction management activities in the CNMI.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications for each service offered no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 1, 2010.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Edward M. Deleon Guerrero
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: August 27, 2010

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,
Plaintiff,
vs.
KARL T. REYES, et.al.,
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 08-0260-CV

AMENDED SECOND NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 21, 2010, and pursuant to a prior withdrawn bid, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following parcel of property. *Please note: the "Brief Description" below is solely for ease of reference, and the Bank of Guam makes no warranty, representation, or guarantee as to condition or improvements included with the parcels of property.*

Lot No. H 175 NEW-3, more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2097/96, the original of which was recorded on July 31, 1996 as Document No. 96-1905 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office in Saipan, CNMI.

Brief Description

This property is located in Dan Dan Village and is subject to a pre-paid lease, which will expire on December 18, 2044. Property is partially developed, but with no permanent structures.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on **September 10, 2010**, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 11th day of August, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
for the
Saipan International Airport ARFF Training Facility Improvements
AIP No. 3-69-0002-68/69 (Project No. CPA-SA-011-09)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management services for the Saipan International Airport ARFF Training Facility Improvements Project, AIP No. 3-69-0002-68/69, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

A. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope;

C. Key personnel's professional qualifications, experience and availability for the proposed services; their reputation and professional integrity and competence; and their knowledge of FAA regulations, policies and procedures;

D. Quality of projects previously undertaken and capability to complete projects without having major cost escalations or overruns;

E. Past performance on contracts including cost control, quality of work and current workload and demonstrated ability to meet schedules and deadlines;

F. Firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and the ability to perform the construction management activities in the CNMI.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications for each service offered no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 8, 2010.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Edward M. Deleon Guerrero
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: August 27, 2010

ROTA BISNES-MAMI, INC.
A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CORPORATION

ARTILCES OF DISSOLUTION

Pursuant to 4 C.M.C. §4603, ROTA BISNES-MAMI, INC., a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands corporation, hereby submits these Articles of Dissolution, setting forth the following information required by statue:

1. Name of Corporation:
   ROTA BISNES-MAMI, INC
2. Date of dissolution authorized:
   SEPTEMBER 01, 2009
3. The dissolution was approved by the shareholders.
   Number of votes entitled to cast and votes cast:
   1,000 SHARES TOTAL
   1,000 VOTED IN FAVOR OF DISSOLUTION
4. Effective date of Dissolution:
   AUGUST 31, 2010

DATED this 31st day of August, 2010.

ROTA BISNES-MAMI, INC.
A COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS CORPORATION

/s/ VENKATA K. MEDABALMI
PRESIDENT

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
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SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE LOADING BRIDGES
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-10

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails providing preventive maintenance services for the four (4) loading bridges. All proposers must show proof of loading bridge repair or similar experience. The detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, September 3, 2010. Proposers must submit all required documents listed in the scope of work. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Loading Bridges at the Saipan International Airport".* One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2010**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MR. EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Science & Technology

Apple unveils new line of iPods, revamped Apple TV

By JEFFERSON GRAHAM
USA TODAY

SAN FRANCISCO—With an eye on the holiday selling season, Apple on Wednesday announced an overhaul of its iconic iPod line of media players, a revamp of its underperforming Apple TV box, and a new social media network in iTunes.

In a widely anticipated announcement, Apple cut the price of Apple TV to $99, down from $229. It will be available in four weeks.

Many companies are looking to bring Internet entertainment to the living room with set-top boxes and other initiatives, including rival Google, which is expected soon to launch Google TV with several partners.

Apple TV, which had offered movies for sale, is now rental only—including first run movies for $4.99, and TV show episodes from ABC, Fox, Disney Channel and BBC America for 99 cents.

The new Apple box is dramatically smaller than the previous version, at one fourth the size. By going to a rental model, consumers won't have to deal with managing the hard drive of the unit, because everything will be streamed.

Consumers "don't want a computer on their TV; they go to their TVs to be entertained," Apple CEO Steve Jobs said at a preview event in San Francisco.

Besides movies and TV shows, Apple TV also will offer videos from YouTube, movies from Netflix if you're a subscriber and photos from Flickr.

Meanwhile, in a bid to reinvigorate the iPod line of music players, Jobs said Apple has "gone wild" with new models. He called it "the biggest change ever in our iPod lineup."

The popularity of the iPhone and the new iPad had sent iPod sales tumbling for the last two years.

The entire line of music players has been redesigned, with a touchscreen added to the Nano, a new look for the Shuffle and a significant upgrade for the iPod Touch that brings to it many more iPhone-like features.

The iPod Touch, which is basically the iPhone without the phone, sells for $229 for 8 GB, 32 GB for $299 and 64 GB for $399.

New features include sharper screen resolution and cameras on front and back, which gives it the ability to handle Apple's FaceTime video chats.

On the iPhone, FaceTime chats work only over Wi-Fi, and the same system is in place for the iPod Touch.

The new iPods will be available next week, with pre-orders beginning now.

Owners of the iPhone 4 and newer models of the iPod Touch will receive a software upgrade next week that includes TV show rentals, high-dynamic range photos, HD video uploads over a Wi-Fi network and a Game Center complete with leaderboards, in-game achievements and online multiplayer.

An additional software upgrade in November will bring the same features to the iPad and add wireless printing.

Jobs also unveiled a new version of iTunes, available now, with a new look and a new social networking feature called Ping.

With Ping, iTunes users can start following the music selections of their friends and artists they are interested in.

Apple's upgrades

Apple unveiled updated generations for three of their iPod lines and a smaller, cheaper version of the Apple TV.

Touch ▸
- Thinner model; improved screen display
- Front facing camera allows for video chat

8 GB $229, **32 GB** $299, **64 GB** $399

Shuffle ▾
- Returns to square shape
- Speaks names of playlists, artists and songs

2 GB $49

Nano ▾
- No buttons, touchscreen navigation
- Built-in FM tuner

8 GB $149
16 GB $179

Apple TV

Original Apple TV

3.9 x 3.9 x 0.9 in. (9.9 x 9.9 x 2.2 cm) 0.6 lb. (0.3 kg)

New, smaller model

- Price cut to $99, from $229
- Original model downloaded content, new will stream
- Apple secured deals with ABC, Fox
- Will stream Netflix's Watch Instantly library
- Movies rentals $4.99, TV show rentals 99 cents

Source: Apple
Graphic: Melina Yingling
© 2010 MCT

Multiple methods to convert movie formats

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: Because we've lived in Europe for a while, we have lots of VHS videotapes in the European TV formats PAL and SECAM. Before I throw away my old multisystem TV (which is compatible with the European formats), I need to know if I can watch my European tapes (played on a multisystem VCR) on an HDTV monitor. What do you think?—Mauno Silpala, Edina, Minn.

ANSWER: You're going to need a converter box for HDTV.

Until now you've only been dealing with the incompatibility of international TV standards. Traditional U.S. sets use NTSC format (national television system committee), while many European TVs use PAL (phase alternate line). French TV uses SECAM (a French acronym for sequential color with memory.) The three standards differ primarily in the number of lines per picture, which is why you needed a multisystem VCR and TV to handle them all.

Now you'll need an up-converter box between your VCR and your HDTV. Why? HDTV displays up to twice as many lines per picture as PAL, SECAM or NTSC, and as a result can't use those signals.

You could buy a multisystem HDTV with a built-in converter (accepts signals in PAL, SECAM or NTSC formats). A multisystem 42-inch LCD TV costs around $700. See http://tinyurl.com/2f2djel/ or http://tinyurl.com/n5opvv/.

Or you could buy a separate up-converter box ($330 and up) that will work with any HDTV. Some will convert PAL, SECAM and NTSC video signals into HD format, while others convert only NTSC and PAL. For a list of up-converter boxes, see http://tinyurl.com/2cmzv5s/, http://tinyurl.com/2cpz6cb/ or http://tinyurl.com/26tbfsr/.

■■■

Q: I'm having problems with Internet Explorer, particularly when I try to open my Gmail account. I get the message "Internet Explorer has stopped working," followed by "A problem caused the program to stop working correctly. Windows will close the program and notify you if a solution is available."

I haven't received any solutions to the problem from Microsoft, and I'm still not able to open my e-mail. Can you help?—Luis Torres, Miami

A: Microsoft says there are several possible causes, but offers to help discover your problem through an analysis of the software on your PC. See http://tinyurl.com/3b3kcx/.

If Internet Explorer won't keep working long enough to try that, you could switch to the Firefox browser instead.

Use Internet Explorer to download Firefox at http://tinyurl.com/d9pp59/. Like any software, Firefox has its own issues, but it's normally reliable.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; e-mail: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

In Loving Memory of

Ana Masga Cruz Duenas

"Anan Bernadino"

DOB: August 7, 1929 • DOD: August 27, 2010

At the age of 81

In her new life she now joins her:
Husband: †Bernadino Camacho Duenas
Parents: †Jose & †Josefina M. Dela Cruz

Her memory will live forever in the hearts of her children and spouses:
Josephine C. Duenas
Margaret C. Duenas
Miguel C. Duenas
Edward C. Duenas/Ernestina P. Cabrera
Larry Lee Flowers
James Edward/Kristi Flowers
Martin C. Duenas/Eleornita K. Santos
Maria Lisa C. Duenas
Steven DLC./Agnes L. Duenas
Ellen D./Rudy Garcia
Joan D./ Francisco M. Aldan, Jr.
Gloria Ann D./Carlos Avila

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:
†Jose M./†Catalina B. Cruz
Francisco M. Dela Cruz
Jesus M./Ramona B. Dela Cruz
†Adela C./Roque Babauta
†Rosa C./†Juan A. Camacho

She will also be missed by her numerous grand, great-grand, great great-grand children, nieces, nephews, cousins.

Daily mass is being offered at San Antonio Church at 6:00pm followed by Holy Rosary.

On September 07, 2010, her remains will be escorted from CHC morgue at 7:00am to San Antonio Church for viewing.

Mass of Christian Burial Will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetary. Lunch will be served immediately at the funeral.

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen I Famaguon-ña yan I familia.

First Year Anniversary

HIROFUMI MATSUMOTO

We, the family, humbly invite all our friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved son, husband and friend unto eternal life.

Mass will be offered on Monday, September 06, 2010 at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan at 6:00 a.m.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Amy, Mr. and Mrs. Matsumoto

Life & Style

PIC goes Caribbean-mad with 2010 PIC Palooza

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club Saipan was all spruced up on Aug. 28 for the tropical beach party of the year—the 2010 PIC Palooza.

PIC's Charley's Cabaret was transformed into a Caribbean luau, festooned with a beach backdrop that also served up favorite dishes from the region.

Guests—dressed up in adventurous costumes, hats, and wigs—had a rollicking good time, taking part in different contests such as the Island Dance competition and the Bowling Game, used coconuts for bowling ball and bamboos as bowling pins.

The revelry served a higher purpose, with the $5,000 raised at the annual fundraising event earmarked for the Employee Cancer Contribution Fund, the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, and the Pet Animal Welfare Society.

"The idea is to raise funds for charitable causes and also have a pleasurable evening with friends and family," said PIC Saipan general manager Kieran Daly.

PIC executive assistant Vicky Benavente said the fun and excitement were boosted by the raffle draw, which gave away lots of exciting prizes, including gift certificates from Boutiki, Magellan Restaurant, and Seaside Grill Restaurant; PIC Water Park passes; PIC Saipan hotel accommodations; and the grand prize of two-night stay at PIC Guam.

Benavente extends a big thank you to the community, including all their event sponsors, for the success of the 2010 PIC Palooza.

"The Pacific Islands Club is grateful to the community for its support over the years. The Palooza is just one of many ways that we give back to our community by providing a creative and fun event to raise funds and express our appreciation," said Benavente.

Celebrating One Year
of Eternal Life
A Year Ago, God called
Victoria Santos
Borja Aguon
to her eternal home in heaven. We gather as family, friends, and relatives to pray for this wonderful and loving person. She will live on forever through Us all who cared and loved her as we remember her in our prayers.
And so, we the family respectfully begin the nine days of daily Masses scheduled 6:00 a.m., at Kristo Rai Church beginning Friday, September 3, 2010 through Saturday, September 11, 2010.
We are sincerely grateful for your presence and support.
Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase
From The Children & Family

Hilton banned from Wynn resorts after Vegas arrest

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Paris Hilton was banned Wednesday from two Wynn resorts on the Las Vegas Strip, and her boyfriend was dismissed as a nightclub partner following their arrests in a vehicle that police said reeked of marijuana.

Wynn Resorts Ltd. spokeswoman Jennifer Dunne told The Associated Press that Hilton is barred from Wynn Las Vegas and Encore.

Meanwhile, boyfriend Cy Waits was "separated" from his job after less than a week as top managing partner of the Tryst Nightclub at Wynn and XS The Nightclub at Encore, Dunne said in a statement.

Waits and a lawyer and publicist for the 29-year-old Hilton did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Hilton

The moves come after Hilton was arrested Friday for investigation of felony cocaine possession. Waits was arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Charges have not yet been filed.

Hilton was arrested inside the Wynn resort, where a police lieutenant reported a small plastic bag containing 0.8 grams of cocaine fell into his hand when Hilton reached for a tube of lip balm in a purse.

The celebrity socialite is scheduled for arraignment Oct. 27 and would face probation if convicted.

A police report made public Wednesday said the suspected butt of a marijuana cigarette was found in the Cadillac Escalade in which the couple was stopped in front of the Wynn Las Vegas hotel-casino.

Waits, 34, was driving. He had bloodshot eyes, smelled of alcohol and wobbled as he failed balance and walk-and-turn field sobriety tests, the arresting officer said.

Attorney Richard Schonfeld, who represents Waits, said his client passed an eye test checking the dilation of his pupils. Schonfeld said he was troubled that Waits wasn't stopped because of a traffic infraction "or any other indication that he was impaired while driving."

Waits allowed blood to be drawn when he was booked into the Clark County jail in downtown Las Vegas, Officer Bill Cassell said. Results won't be released until the case reaches court.

Waits spent a night in jail on suspicion of misdemeanor driving under the influence before being freed on $2,000 bail with a Nov. 29 court date.

Dunne said Waits' twin brother, Jesse Waits, is continuing as general partner of the Wynn resorts' Tryst and XS clubs.

The brothers were hired by Steve Wynn five years ago and became the casino owner's top club managers last week when Wynn bought out Victor Drai.

Fantasia talks about her suicide attempt and recovery

By MARIA ELENA FERNANDEZ
LOS ANGELES TIMES

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.—August was supposed to be Fantasia Barrino's comeback month. For three years, the "American Idol" winner and Broadway star had been working on her third album, and selecting tracks that spoke to how far she'd come in her troubled life.

To outsiders, everything seemed to be on target for a successful late-August launch of her album, "Back to Me." But behind the scenes, the 26-year-old singer, overloaded personally and professionally, said she felt like she wanted to "sleep forever." In a lengthy interview, Fantasia opened up about her suicide attempt earlier this month and also talked about her first halting and painful steps toward recovery.

AP
In this CD cover image released by J Records, the latest by Fantasia, "Back to Me," is shown.

"I always covered up everything so well," Fantasia said, sipping a glass of Malbec at a Beverly Hills hotel after taping "Lopez Tonight" last week. "I'm always the bubbly life of the party. And for so long, I pushed and pushed and pushed. And, this day, I had no push in me."

Before her overdose on Aug. 9 grabbed headlines and lighted up the blogosphere, Fantasia barricaded herself inside a guest room in her Charlotte, N.C., house for three days—refusing to eat, drink or talk to anyone, even her mother, best friend and manager. The single mother couldn't even face her 9-year-old daughter, Zion, who was being looked after by a cousin.

For months, Fantasia had denied rumors she was having an affair with a married man, Antwaun Cook, a T-Mobile salesman. But soon photos of the couple surfaced on gossip pages and Cook's wife, Paula, filed for divorce, saying her husband had made a sex tape with Fantasia.

The news didn't go over well in the culturally conservative Southern city. Strangers drove by her house at all hours. Her mother expressed her pain and disappointment. Fantasia feared another round of cruel judgments from the media.

"At the time, I wasn't thinking about anybody," she said, tears welling in her eyes. "I was so numb. I was so out of it. I've never been to that place before. It was so scary. It was the darkest place that anybody would want to be."

It took a team of lawyers, trailed by cameras for the second season of her reality show "Fantasia for Real"—which premieres Sept. 19—to wrest her from her hiding place. Because of the ongoing litigation, Fantasia would say little about her relationship with Cook, but she acknowledged that the two had had an on-again, off-again relationship for 11 months and that when they began dating she believed he was separated from his wife.

"I just want people to know he was a good guy," she said. "I think everybody hates him right now. He's like the monster right now. Whatever he's done was OK because we weren't really together like that. I was dating, doing my thing."

The meeting with lawyers that morning sent Fantasia over the edge. On the way home, she recalls telling her manager, Brian Dickens, she felt as though she were on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

"And he just said what they always say, 'You got it, Tasia. It's gonna be all right. You're strong. Blah blah blah,'" she said. "And he just couldn't tell that this day that wasn't going to help. I didn't want to hear that anymore. I'd been hearing that for years and you gotta understand, I don't have anybody to lean on. I'm the one—I'm the caretaker. I do everything."

When she got home, she went to her bedroom and sat in a chair for hours. Her best friend, mother and her stepfather tried to talk to her at various times. "I was in such a zone," she said. "Mouths were moving, but I didn't hear (it)."

One comment her mother made did stand out. Fantasia asked her mother if she thought her music would endure.

"I've always looked up to Aretha Franklin. She's my idol," Fantasia said. "When she goes away, her music will forever be. And I always used to say I want to be like that. My mom said, 'Yeah, but you've got more to do.' And then she went to babbling and babbling and babbling and I was just zoned out."

Fantasia asked everyone to leave.

"I just wanted to go to sleep, at first," Fantasia said. "... And after that, I was like, you know what? At this point, I don't care if I go to sleep and never wake up."

She wrote farewell letters to her three brothers, mother, and daughter. She also texted her manager and her best friend that she loved them. Then she took "a lot" of sleeping pills and an entire bottle of Bayer aspirin, and sat in her closet, staring at herself in a mirror.

"I felt like it was never going to end for me," she said. "... I just felt tired, tired, tired."

When she awoke, Fantasia was angry to find herself alive and in the hospital. She was hooked up to an IV and discovered nurses had been assigned to watch over her around the clock. Two days later she was discharged under the condition she undergo outpatient group therapy. (And at that countryside facility, she also met with a life coach.)

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Machete
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:40
Saturday & Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:40
Monday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Tues through Thurs 4:05 7:05
Danny Trejo, Robert DeNiro
Action • Rated R
Synopsis
Robert Rodriguez makes good on expanding his Grindhouse fake trailer Machete into a feature film with this Overnight Productions picture. Danny Trejo will once again star as the knife-wielding vigilante who nearly dies in an assassination conspiracy, only to return later on and seek vengeance against those who wronged him. Robert De Niro, Lindsay Lohan, Jessica Alba, Steven Seagal, Don Johnson, and Jeff Fahey fill out the supporting cast.

Going The Distance
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:55
Saturday & Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:55
Monday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Tues through Thurs 4:25 7:25
Drew Barrymore, Justin Long
Comedy • Rated R
Synopsis
Drew Barrymore and Justin Long star as a couple who find their long-distance relationship wearing thin in this romantic comedy from director Nanette Burnstein. Geoff LaTulippe provides the screenplay for the New Line production.

The Last Exorcism
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:50
Saturday & Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Monday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Tues through Thurs 4:00 7:00
Patrick Fabian, Ashley Bell
Horror • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Disillusioned charlatan Reverend Cotton Marcus (Patrick Fabian) comes face to face with pure evil after recruiting a documentary film crew to capture the final exorcism of his career. For years Reverend Marcus has taken advantage of the faithful and desperate. Now it's time for him to finally come clean. Just as Reverend Marcus prepares to shoot the film that will set the record straight, he receives an urgent letter from a desperate farmer. The devil has taken possession of his beloved daughter Nell (Ashley Bell, and Reverend Marcus is their last hope for salvation.

Piranha
Friday 4:30 7:30 10:00
Saturday & Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Monday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Tues through Thurs 4:30 7:30
Elisabeth Shue, Adam Scott
Horror • Rated R

Vampires Suck
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:45
Saturday & Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:45
Monday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Tues through Thurs 4:15 7:15
Matt Lanter, Chris Riggi
Comedy • Rated PG 13

The Expendables
Friday 4:10 7:20 9:30
Saturday & Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:30
Monday 1:20 4:10 7:20
Tues through Thurs 4:10 7:20
Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham
War • Rated R

The Other Guys
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:35
Saturday & Sunday 1:10 4:20 7:10 9:35
Monday 1:10 4:20 7:10
Tues through Thurs 4:20 7:10
Mark Wahlberg, Will Farrell
Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Barrymore, Long talk about new film

By RICK BENTLEY
THE FRESNO BEE

LOS ANGELES—This weekend's romantic comedy "Going the Distance" pairs up Drew Barrymore and Justin Long.

We asked them about working together, challenging scenes and more to get a better idea of their chemistry:

Q. How important is the first kiss in a romantic comedy?

Justin Long: The first kiss for us in the movie was sloppy because we were stoned. It was so easy to do because we are so comfortable. Sometimes it can be a surprise when you've just met someone.

Drew Barrymore: I was just lucky because he's a good kisser. Thank God! The worst is when you're trying to kiss someone who's not a good kisser and you're trying to make it look good. You feel like you're working on your own. At least this was a real team effort.

AP

Drew Barrymore, right, and Justin Long backstage at the Absolute Radio VIP area during the V Festival at Hylands Park in Chelmsford, England Saturday Aug. 21, 2010.

Q: What was the most challenging scene?

DB: One of the challenges I was most excited about was doing the drunk scene. We focused on what type of drunk is she, what we could ad lib and what could be spontaneous. If you were really angry, how would you let loose? It was like the most fun day at work ever.

JL: Some of the naked stuff was a little uncomfortable. But I think the most challenging was trying to keep a straight face. A lot of the intimate, sexual stuff—in a room full of 30-40 grown men—was a challenge.

Q: So just how important is it to have sparks between the leads in a romantic comedy?

DB: I find that films, for me, work best when you are invested in the whole group of people. I love films that have an alumni quality and you're really into all the people in it. I love when the chemistry goes far beyond the couple.

Q. What attracted you to this film?

DB: I wasn't in that place in my life where I wanted to play a cuckoo, wacky role-reversal scenario. I wanted to play someone who has spine and is funny. I feel like I relate to that kind of person in my life right now so it was a pleasure for me to get to improv and work in a more free-flowing way.

Q. What's the most cherished thing in your house?

DB: Any of my dogs.

Q. What are your top three movies?

JL: "Annie Hall," "Back to the Future" and "Way Out West."

DB: "Annie Hall," "Lost in America" and "Sullivan's Travels." Those are some of my favorite movies.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Conan O'Brien's new show: It's `Conan'

NEW YORK (AP)—There's Madonna, Oprah and now ... "Conan." Conan O'Brien took the simple approach Wednesday in announcing the name of his new talk show on TBS. "Conan" will kick off Nov. 8. He posted a YouTube video announcing the show's name to his fans. He scrawled the name on a white sheet of paper using a black marking pen. O'Brien has finished a comedy concert tour. He was nominated for an Emmy Award for his short-lived stint as NBC "Tonight" show host that ended amid much drama in January, but lost to Jon Stewart and Comedy Central's "The Daily Show."

NY ex-employee, 51, accuses 'Diddy' of age bias

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York woman has sued rapper-producer Sean "Diddy" Combs, saying he fired her because of her age two decades after she helped launch his career. Fifty-one-year-old Francesca Spero filed the age discrimination lawsuit Wednesday in federal court in Manhattan. The lawsuit says the Malverne resident introduced Combs to hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons and Uptown Records after meeting Combs in 1988. It says she worked at Combs' Bad Boy Entertainment record label as an executive for 12 years before being fired in March. The lawsuit says Spero was fired after having hip surgery and confiding to an executive that she was treated for a drug dependency relapse. A publicist for Combs says "there are many reasons why Ms. Spero is no longer employed by Bad Boy, but age discrimination is not one of them."

Jennifer Esposito guest starring on `Blue Bloods'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jennifer Esposito is joining the force. CBS said Wednesday that Esposito will guest star on several episodes of "Blue Bloods," a new drama about a family with deep roots in law enforcement. The series' ensemble cast includes Tom Selleck, Donnie Wahlberg and Bridget Moynahan. Esposito will be featured in several episodes as Wahlberg's partner in the New York Police Department. Esposito's TV credits include "Rescue Me" and "Samantha Who?" She is scheduled to appear on "Blue Bloods" around mid-October. "Blue Bloods" debuts Sept. 24 at 10 p.m. Eastern. The drama's creators are Mitchell Burgess and Robin Green, who have worked on shows including "The Sopranos" and "Northern Exposure."

Patrick Wayne gets Pa. Jimmy Stewart museum honor

INDIANA, Pa. (AP)—Actor Patrick Wayne is being honored later this year by a western Pennsylvania museum dedicated to actor Jimmy Stewart. At an Oct. 23 ceremony Wayne will receive one of the museum's Harvey Awards for himself and another for his late father, western movie star John Wayne. The James M. Stewart Museum Foundation is based in Stewart's hometown, Indiana, Pa., about 45 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. Patrick Wayne appeared in the movie "Shenandoah" with Stewart. His father appeared in "The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance" and "The Shootist" with Stewart. Past Harvey Award winners include June Allyson, Janet Leigh, Shirley Jones, Ernest Borgnine and Rich Little. The award is named for the 1950 film in which Stewart befriends an invisible rabbit.

Rapper Young Buck files for bankruptcy after raid

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Rapper Young Buck has filed for bankruptcy after an Internal Revenue Service raid on his Hendersonville, Tenn., home. The Tennessean newspaper reports that a judge has accepted the rapper's proposal to dock his monthly pay from Cashville Records by $12,500 over 60 months for a total of $750,000. The rapper, whose name is David Darnell Brown, could save a large portion of the $164,000 in property the IRS seized Aug. 3. The IRS says he owes the agency more than $300,000. Chapter 13 filing allows a five-year repayment plan for unsecured creditors to recover part of what they are owed. Other creditors include the state of New York, American Home Mortgage Service and Wells Fargo Auto Insurance. Young Buck's albums include "Straight Outta Ca$hville" and "Buck the World."

Cage lawsuit vs manager junked

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Court records show a lawsuit in which Nicolas Cage accused a former business manager of mismanagement has been dismissed.

A counterclaim by the manager, Samuel J. Levin, also was dismissed.

Cage sued Levin for $20 million in October, claiming the accountant led him on a path to financial ruin.

Cage

Levin countersued for unpaid fees and alleged the actor didn't listen to his advice.

Court records indicated both cases were dismissed Monday. No other details were available.

A phone message left for an attorney for the 46-year-old actor was not immediately returned Wednesday.

The dismissal was first reported Wednesday by celebrity website TMZ.

'Transformers 3' movie extra injured during shoot

HAMMOND, Ind. (AP)—Indiana State Police say an extra at a "Transformers 3" production site was seriously injured during the filming of a stunt.

Authorities say the "Transformers 3" crew was filming late Wednesday in the Chicago suburb of Hammond, Ind., using several vehicles and drivers. Police say something went wrong and an object went through the windshield of a car, hitting the driver.

In a statement, police said the vehicle kept going for a mile before stopping.

Police did not release the driver's name. The person was airlifted to a hospital.

"Transformers 3" crews have been filming in the Chicago area all summer.

The movie stars Shia LaBeouf, Patrick Dempsey, Frances McDormand, John Malkovich and model Rosie Huntington-Whitely.

Lighthearted courtship has become wedded drudgery

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to my second husband, "Greg," for 3 1/2 years. Before we married, Greg took me out on dates, we had wonderful conversations and a satisfying sex life.

Now I spend every weekend cleaning, and when I clean the upstairs, Greg goes downstairs. If I clean downstairs, he goes upstairs. He says he loves me, but it seems we have become more like roommates than husband and wife.

Greg buys big-ticket items (big-screen TV and a computer, for example) without telling me. In fact, he never discusses anything with me. Do you think he married me only to cook and clean for him?

Before you suggest counseling, let me point out one more thing: Greg is a psychologist.

SEARCHING FOR NORMAL IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR SEARCHING: It appears you married a man who was terrific at sales and poor on follow-through. Because someone is a psychologist does not automatically make that person a good spouse, or parent—or even a particularly effective therapist.

You two have a serious communication problem. You need to tell him how you feel, and he needs to tell you why he's avoiding you and won't allow you to have a voice in "big" decisions. And I AM suggesting counseling, but not with anyone with whom your husband is affiliated in business.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have been going out with an older man for a year and a half. He is very nice and makes me laugh. He has a lot of faults, but I can tolerate them except for one—he cheated on both of his ex-wives. He has had affairs with his friends' wives, his employees and his customers. He even told me he slept with another woman the night before his wedding to his second wife.

He likes to flirt, and women like him because he has a great sense of humor. I love his company and we get along well—most of the time. He says he's sorry for his past behavior, but I'm not convinced he really is. I'm afraid he will do the same with me if he has the chance.

I have spoken to him about my concerns. He says he is "different" now. I have been hurt by men before, and I really don't want to have another emotional disaster. What can he do to gain my trust?

HESITANT IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR HESITANT: Probably nothing. Face it—he's charming, witty and can't keep his zipper up. Recognize and enjoy him for who he is, but if you're looking for a lifetime commitment, he's not "the one."

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I was recently asked by a good friend to be one of his groomsmen at his wedding. Of course, I accepted.

His bachelor party was on the Oregon coast, so I had to fly out for that a few months before the wedding. The ceremony is in St. Louis, so I have to journey there as well. For both events I have had to pay for travel, accommodations, etc. I spent $200 for the tuxedo rental for the wedding as well as additional expenses.

By the end of it I'll have spent more than $1,000. Must I still buy my friend a wedding gift?

BIG SPENDER IN PALO ALTO, CALIF.

DEAR BIG SPENDER: The answer is yes—but it doesn't have to be expensive. According to Emily Post, among the basic responsibilities of all adult attendants is to "contribute to attendants' group gifts to the bride and groom (and usually, give an individual gift as well)."

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

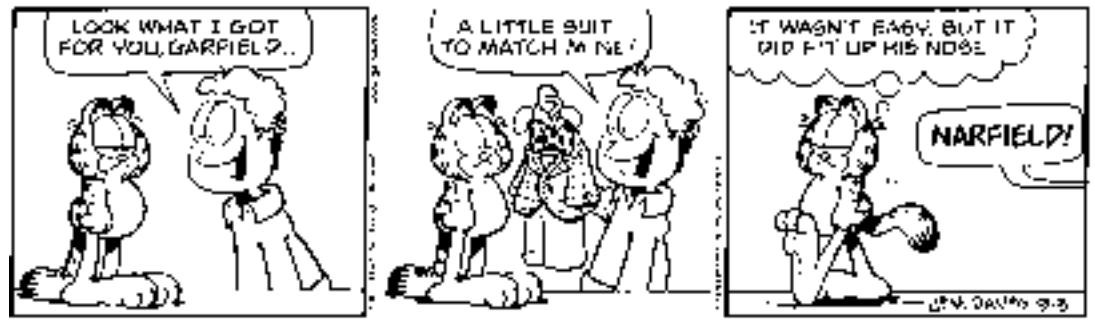
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

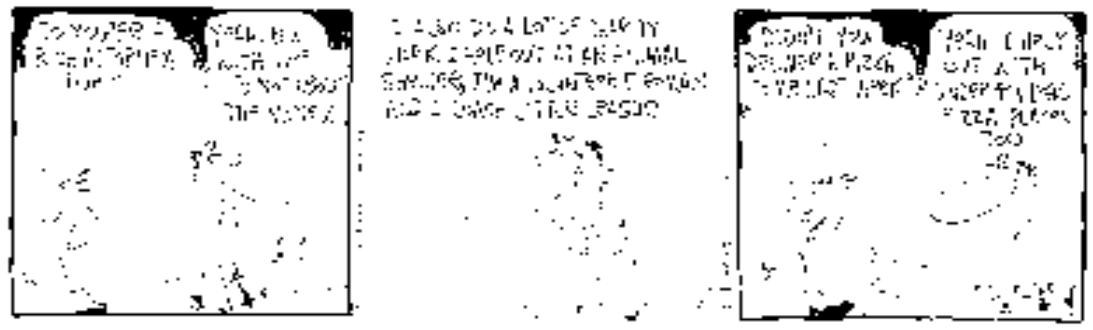


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



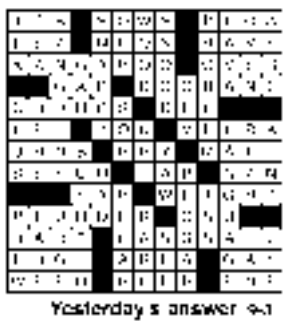
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

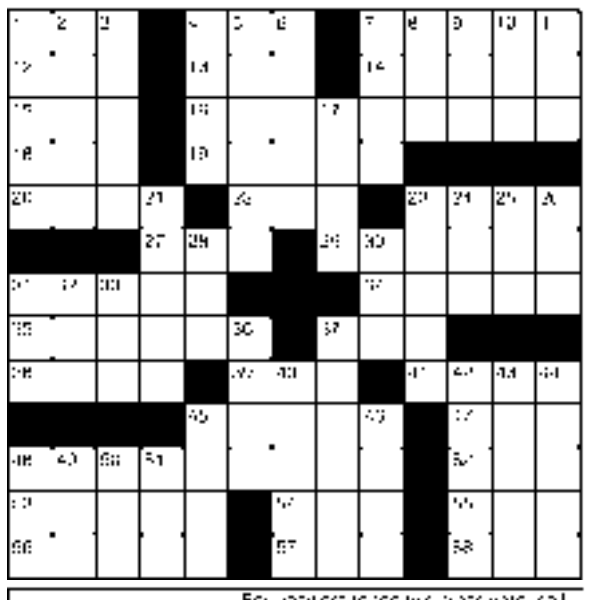
ACROSS
1 Likely
4 Literary collection
7 Like a snake's eyes
12 Bud's buddy
13 Once around
14 Political debate subject
15 Under the weather
16 Chinese leader [1911-12]
18 — -de-sac
19 Curved moldings
20 Baghdad's land
22 Actor Linden
23 Harpy cabbage
27 Lasi (Asbo)
29 Take a parking space
31 Bewildered
34 Napped leather
35 Charm lans
37 Emotionless
38 Ilk
39 Book keeper (Abbr.)
41 Wild and crazy
45 Knitting stitches
47 "The way
48 Drummer with The Who
52 Cologne label word
53 Bern's roomie
54 Lennon's lady
55 Performance
56 Veep who resigned in disgrace
57 A handful
58 Sound amateur star

DOWN
1 Excuse
2 — opposites
3 Oklahoma city
4 As we
5 Zero
6 Breathing problem
7 Prejudice
8 Partial lie
9 Fool
10 Payable
11 Longing
17 Spiritual
21 Line
23 Harpy gracefully one
24 Rub order
25 Cover
26 Chemical suffix
28 Young bees
30 Work with
31 Starboard
32 Stab
33 Foo
36 Pond gunk
37 Karl or Moses of basketball
40 Irrefutable evidence
42 Top players
43 Civil rights org.
44 Aeolus sense
45 "That was close!"
46 Winter forecast
48 Manna —
49 Work unit
50 B&O
51 Crawl

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-3855 (99¢ per minute, touch-tone only, must be 18+, only in the U.S.). Features service, 2010

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shaun White, 24; Garrett Hedlund, 26; Charlie Sheen, 45; Eileen Brennan, 78

Happy Birthday: Change is upon you and, like it or not, you must deal with whatever comes your way. Showing you have what it takes to deal with matters effectively will speak volumes about your character and what you have to offer. Emotions will be difficult to contain and should be handled with dignity. Don't let past problems resurface. Your numbers are 2, 10, 19, 22, 25, 31, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Be careful how you handle personal matters. Someone you are close to will have trouble relating to what you want. Stick to what you can do on your own to avoid disputes. Get away from home for the day. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Discuss any emotional matters that need addressing before you carry on with your plans. Dealing with friends, children or your lover will all lead to a greater understanding. Working alongside others will help you reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You don't have to say a word. In fact, avoid talking and you will get much further ahead. Focus on developing some of your ideas that can turn a profit. Take a serious approach to whatever you do. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Travel, love, romance and seeking adventure should all be scheduled in. Relaxing or enjoying a little pampering will pay off. Don't let someone else's burden become your own when you should be taking care of your own interests. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Redecorate or look at real estate or make a residential move. Change is good and will help you sort out some of the problems you have faced in the past. A unique idea will allow you to turn negative relationships into positive and prosperous connections. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Discussing your plans with others will drum up interest in what you are trying to pursue and bring about possible customers or partnerships. You can move toward your goals quickly, but don't give too much away. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Being limited emotionally by a set of circumstances you face will lead to anger, upset and disputes. Rethink your strategy. Follow through on your own if you feel strongly about what you want to do. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Give more thought to financial matters. It's important to take care of business and help an older family member in order to obtain control of your financial future. By implementing new ways to take advantage of what the system offers, you will get ahead. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): It's what you do to help others that will count. Show compassion and offer your services. Don't test the one you love or push your beliefs on others. If you cannot pursue something on your own, perhaps you aren't ready to travel down that path. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let someone from your past drag you into a situation you have faced before. Limitations will occur if you are trying to learn something new or while traveling to unfamiliar places. Don't let your vulnerability or uncertainty cost you. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone you owe emotionally, financially or personally will be ready to collect. Don't try to avoid what needs to be taken care of. Once you clear the debt, you can move forward. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Use your creative ideas to turn a profit. What you have to offer, along with a tempting presentation, has potential to position you for success. There is a lot to gain by handling fairly what needs doing. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a peacemaker, an advocate of truth and a good friend and companion. You seek justice and have great vision.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

. . .	. 8 .	. 6 .
2 . .	. . 7	4 . .
. 6 3	. . .	9 . .
. 5 .	. 1 .	. . .
6 . .	. . .	. . 3
. . .	. 6 .	. 8 .
. . 9	. . .	1 3 .
. . 5	3 . .	. . 2
. 4 .	. 5 .	. . .

Puzzle Level: ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2 9 5	8 1 6	7 4 3
6 3 1	7 9 4	5 2 8
7 5 4	2 3 5	6 1 9
5 4 2	6 8 1	3 9 7
9 1 7	4 5 3	2 8 6
3 6 8	9 2 7	4 5 1
4 2 3	1 5 8	9 7 5
1 7 6	5 4 9	8 3 2
8 5 9	3 7 2	1 6 4

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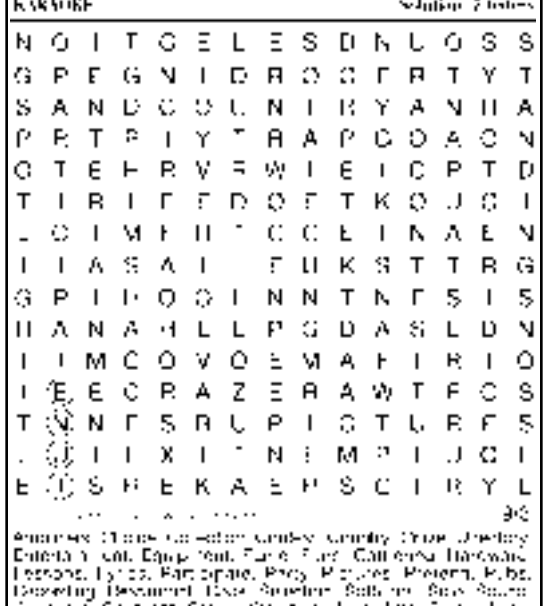
WONDERWORD

By DAVID DUBLET



BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

MICRONESIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION REGULATORY MATTERS **DOCKET 09-3**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [Commission] is directed by 4 CMC § 8421(a), to review Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation's [MTC] local rates to determine whether they are just and reasonable. MTC, doing business as IT&E, serves as the Commonwealth's incumbent local exchange carrier. The Commission is also directed by its enabling legislation to examine the adequacy of MTC's tariff, insurance and quality standards for services and facilities. Moreover, 4 CMC §8409(d) directs the Commission to review and approve any MTC divestiture of capital or contractual agreement, which may increase customer rates and charges. The Commission is further tasked by federal law to annually certify whether eligible telecommunications carriers, including MTC, who provide service within the Commonwealth, should receive federal high cost support for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services. In order to facilitate this annual review, the Commission has crafted and posted on the Chamber's website a proposed administrative order, which would - effective October 1, 2010 - establish the protocol for this review.

In response to these statutory directives, the Commission' staff [Staff] has conducted a thorough review and is prepared to present its report to the Commission during the September 2010 regulatory session. In substantial measure, Staff's report is supported by MTC through three stipulations [DID Stipulation dated August 18, 2010; ETC Certification Stipulation dated July 15, 2010 and Quality of Service Stipulation dated July 15, 2010], which have been posted in this docket on the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's website [saipanchamber.com] for public review.

MTC and Staff support the Commission's approval of the revised MTC local exchange tariff, which is posted on MTC's website [pti.com/global/tariff] for public review. The revised tariff would make the following material changes to MTC's current tariff: 1. Change the credit establishment charge from $100 for business and $50 for residential customers to a charge equal to two months billing [generally reducing this charge]. 2. Require the return of customer deposits, with 4% simple interest per annum after 12 consecutive months without disconnection for non-payment. 3. Reduce the return check charge from $50.00 to $30.00. 4. Permit customer billing disputes to be initiated within 30 days instead of the current 15 days of bill presentation. 5. Institute a $55 per hour [2 hour minimum] "out-of hours" trouble isolation charge for service problems, which are the customer's responsibility. 6. Add pay telephone lines as a distinct service at the same charge as single line business basic service and add new $2.00 rates for some coin features. 7. Re-write the lifeline and link-up service tariff section to conform with current FCC requirements. 8. Establish interim direct inward dial rates of $25 per block of 100 DID numbers; $30 per PBX trunk termination; and $85 per PBX trunk; subject to further Commission review in the November 2010 regulatory session. 9. Add CentraNet service rates, which are currently being charged as untariffed rates and revise service terms and conditions. 10. Add network schematic drawings to identify private line service rate elements. 11. Delete reference to Commonwealth inter-island long distance service, which is provided without additional charge. 12. Add the following non-recurring private line installation charges: $250 for dry lines, 9.6 Kbps lines and 19.2 to 56/64 Kbps lines; and $450 for 125 Kbps to 11.544 Mbps lines. 13. Update the tariff language to make it consistent with generally accepted regulatory practices.

MTC and Staff have a material disagreement about whether MTC's local rates are just and reasonable. Relevant briefs, which present the parties' positions regarding this disagreement, are posted on the Chamber's website. Unless resolved, this disagreement will be presented to the Commission by argument and further proceedings at the public hearing noticed below. At issue is whether initial high level review proceedings of MTC's rate of return have produced preponderant evidence that its local rates are just and reasonable and, therefore, require no in-depth review at the present time.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commission will conduct a public hearing, which will commence at 1:00 p.m. on Friday September 17, 2010 at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's conference room in the Family Building Garapan to consider the above matters and to receive public comment regarding them. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC §8409(j) should on or before September 13, 2010 file with the Commission at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce offices an application and offer of proof in accordance with §8409(j) and Commission Procedural Rule 11(c). Subsequent to the public hearing, the Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 24, 2010 at the Garapan office of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing. Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from Commissioner Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

FREE WORKSHOP

The Administration for Native Americans
Pacific Region Technical Assistance Office
will be conducting a three-day

Project Development Workshop

in preparation for

Grant opportunities for fiscal year 2011.

The workshop will be held at

The Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan on September 22, 23 and 24, 2010.

The workshop is free to native non-profit organizations servicing indigenous populations of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and Guam.

Participation in all three days by eligible organizations is highly encouraged. Participants can register for the workshop at www.anapacificbasin.org or get more information by visiting www.anapacificbasin.org or call toll free (866) 339-7905 or (808) 536-2363.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CUC-RFP-10-044

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. OMB Circular A-133
2. Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States
3. Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)

The following information must be included in the audit proposals:

1) Title Page
- a) RFP Subject
- b) Name of Firm
- c) Local Address
- d) Telephone Numbers
- e) Name of Contact Persons
- f) Submission Date

2) Transmittal Letter
- a) A brief statement of your understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement to perform the work within the time period stipulated
- b) State all inclusive fees for which the audit will be performed.

3) Firm's Profile
- a) Provide a brief description of your firm's personnel professional/educational background and experience, number of staff, staff level (partner, manager, supervisor, etc.) and client listing.
- b) The firm shall make an affirmative statement that at least the partners are certified public accountants.

The date of contract award will be no later than September 30, 2010. Audit work shall be commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2011.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-10-044, Financial & Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2010" to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (CHST), local time, on September 14, 2010.**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Approach to Project (25 maximum points)
2. Qualification of the Principal and Proposed Staff (25 maximum points)
3. Experience on Similar Projects (25 maximum points)
4. Time to Complete the Project (20 maximum points)
5. Cost (5 maximum points)

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, S;aipan, MP 96950; Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, at email address charles_warren@cucgov.net; and Manny B. Sablan, CUC Procurement & Supply Manager at email address msablan@cucgov.net.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC..

/s/ ANTONION S. MUNA
Executive Director

Notice of Public Scoping Meeting

The CNMI Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Program Office/Office of the Governor intends to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the siting and conceptual design of a solid waste transfer station on the island of Tinian. A public scoping meeting will be held on **Friday, September 17, 2010 at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria in San Jose, Tinian from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** We encourage the public to attend this meeting and learn about the proposed transfer station, and to provide oral and/or written comments on specific issues for consideration in the EA. Written comments may also be mailed to the address below and should be postmarked by October 17, 2010:

Duenas, Camacho & Associates, Inc.
Attention: Tinian Transfer Station
238 E. Marine Corps Drive,
Suite 201 Diamond Plaza
Hagatna, Guam 96910

For special accommodations or more information please call DCA, Inc. at 671-477-7991.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find today's solution in this section

BUSH CUTTER REPAIR
Only $35 Service
For lawnmower small engine
Please call
233-5641
Open: 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

Computer Repair
Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
17" Monitor – FOR SALE
233-5641
Open: 7 Days a Week 9:00am - 9:00pm

DFS SAIPAN LIMITED has job openings for

Beauty Advisors

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Aggressively drive counter sales.
- Be a contributing member of Beauty Team at counter, store and region level.
- Execute planned promotions and events.
- Maintain brand item tables and remote product presentations.
- Maintain DFS, vendor and Merchant Planning & Distribution presentation and performance standards.
- Check in and stock merchandise, testers, supplies, etc., at counter.
- Attend all formal vendor and DFS training.
- Provide input to Product Sales Manager (PSM) and Product Manager on customer wants and needs.
- Recommend product deletions and/or additions of items to PSM and Product Manager.
- Perform monthly zone training of sales associates and other line Beauty Advisors.
- Perform monthly MP&D rebalance counts for PSM.
- Maintain solid vendor relations.
- Comply with vendor and DFS conduct and uniform standards.
- Assist PSM and Product Managers as required.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- High school graduate or equivalent or an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential functions of the job.
- Able to work flexible hours, weekends and holidays.
- Have a flare for color and style, and current on latest trends.
- Japanese or Korean speaking beneficial but not required.
- Previous makeup applications/cosmetics experience preferred.

Prospective applicants will be subject for pre-employment drug test and will be required to submit police clearance upon hiring.

Applications are available at the reception area, 2nd floor of DFS Galleria Monday to Friday between 8:00 am to 5:00 pm or call Rose Wanket at 236-2511

VACANCY POSITION FOR:
GOLF CART AND GOLF EQUIPMENTS MECHANIC
CLOSING DATE: UNTIL FILLED

LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort
is looking for an experience and energetic
GOLF CART AND GOLF EQUIPMENTS MECHANIC:

- Able to repair and maintain golf carts engines and other gasoline engines to power equipment such as portable saws, lawn mowers, generators and compressors, clean machines and machine parts,
- Test drive vehicles, examine vehicles to determine extend of damage or malfunctions,
- Perform routine and scheduled maintenance services such as oil changes, lubrications, and tune-ups,
- Must have at least two years work experience in mechanic works,
- Must have knowledge of machines and tools, including designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.

Please submit your resume and employment application form available at LAOLAO BAY GOLF & RESORT no later than September 15, 2010.

We are an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT EMPLOYER

WHATZIT Solution:
Stand by for action

LEAVING ISLAND
FOR SALE/LEASE
2,000 SQM LAND
FINASISU, SPN $4/SQM (NEG.)
MR. SABLAN (788-7642)

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00 without Insurance
Call: 233-9889, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)
Some conditions may apply

FOR RENT
ONE BR. APT. NEAR MHS in a quite, secure area behind Calvo's Nursery, off Texas Rd. 24 hrs govt. and rain water with its own washing machine. Fully furnished and air conditioned. Ceiling fans in all rooms Two walk-in closets. Water included. $375. Call Ed at 788-6268.

FORTUNE TELLER
PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE
SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS/MARRIAGES,
LOVERS QUARRELS, RELEASES ALL EVIL FORCES
FROM HOME, FAMILY AND BUSINESSES
MOTHER CHRISTIAN IN TAMUNING
(671) 787-4123

CASH CASH CASH for GOLD GOLD GOLD
Silver Platinum Diamonds
GOLD COINS
We buy BROKEN GOLD too!
BOBBY (671) 929-7437
TAMUNING

WANTED
COOK
Preferably with 3 YEARS EXPERIENCE
Submit your resume to Atom's Co., Ltd., office.
We are located on Lower Miha Housing area.
For more info please contact 233-8880

Looking for
CAUCASIAN EXTRA MODEL
FOR TV-COMMERCIAL
MALE/FEMALE
20 – 60 years old
Please call: 323-2101/888-3245 or email:
goodday_saipan@yahoo.com

VACANCY
J.C. Tenorio Ent, Inc., is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position
COOK
Please apply in person at the J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. Human Resources Office Joeten Center, Susupe
(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

"I want to go shopping!"
MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

3 Bedroom 2 ½ Bath House in San Vicente 1,800 sq. meter yard Pls. call 256-0280 or 989-3365

2 Bedroom Apartment for Rent. For $200.00 / month Koblerville, please call 288-0728.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper. Please call 235-NEWS

Player collapses on court at US Open; Oudin out

NEW YORK (AP)—The scene was simply scary: Victoria Azarenka, a 21-year-old on the rise in the WTA rankings, paused about a half-hour into her second-round match Wednesday at the U.S. Open, then staggered, stumbled and collapsed to the court.

Azarenka, seeded 10th in the Grand Slam tournament, rolled over to rest her head on her arm, and a trainer rushed over. Someone covered Azarenka's legs with a white towel. She retired from the match, eventually was helped into a wheelchair, her yellow visor askew atop her head, then taken to a hospital, where tests showed she had a mild concussion.

As a record-breaking summer suffocates New York, the temperature in Flushing Meadows headed into the 90s for a third consecutive day, and the mercury topped 100 degrees on court. But tournament referee Brian Early said Azarenka's problem did "not seem to be primarily a heat-related illness."

Indeed, Azarenka herself later revealed she fell in the gym while warming up before the match, banging her head and arm in the gym.

"I was checked by the medical team before I went on court and they were courtside for monitoring. I felt worse as the match went on, having a headache and feeling dizzy," said Azarenka, who is from Belarus but lives part of the year in Scottsdale, Ariz., with the family of NHL goalie Nikolai Khabibulin, someone she considers a mentor.

While that was the biggest news of the morning, there were surprises on the scoreboard throughout Day 3, including more than 12 hours later, when 2003 U.S. Open champion Andy Roddick bowed out in the second round with a 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (4) loss to 44th-ranked Janko Tipsarevic at night.

Roddick had difficulty dealing with Tipsarevic's serve and go-for-broke groundstrokes, but also got into a lengthy argument with a lineswoman over a foot-fault call in the third set. Roddick asked the official which foot crossed the baseline, and she told him it was his right foot.

"That's impossible," Roddick snapped.

He continued berating the official between points, making a joke about "1-800-Rent-a-Ref."

A TV replay showed Roddick did commit a foot fault - but with his left foot.

No. 9 Roddick was joined on the sideline by two other seeded men, thanks to 18-year-old American qualifier Ryan Harrison's 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-4 victory over No. 15 Ivan Ljubicic, and Michael Llodra's 7-6 (3), 6-4, 6-4 upset of Wimbledon runner-up and No. 7-seeded Tomas Berdych.

Harrison, who is based in Bradenton, Fla., is the first U.S. male teen to beat a top-20 opponent at any Grand Slam tournament since a 19-year-old Roddick knocked off No. 11 Alex Corretja at the 2001 U.S. Open.

You don't have to go nearly as far back to find a female teen from the United States who pulled off that sort of upset, of course: Melanie Oudin of Marietta, Ga., was 17 a year ago when she reached the U.S. Open quarterfinals by beating two top-20 players.

Oudin's 2010 stay in New York was shorter: She lost in the second round Wednesday to No. 29 Alona Bondarenko 6-2, 7-5.

"Definitely disappointing," Oudin said. "I still have, hopefully, like, 10 more years in my career, hopefully 10 more U.S. Opens ahead of me. So I'll definitely be looking forward again to next year."

Among the seeded women bowing out was No. 21 Zheng Jie, overwhelmed 6-3, 6-0 by 2008 French Open champion Ana Ivanovic, who used to be ranked No. 1 but has tumbled to No. 40.

No. 13 Marion Bartoli, No. 28 Alisa Kleybanova and No. 32 Tsvetana Pironkova also lost. Pironkova was ranked only 82nd in June, when she shocked Venus Williams in the quarterfinals, and they could have met in the third round in New York. But Pironkova bowed out in straight sets against qualifier Mandy Minella of Luxembourg, who gets to face Williams instead.

Williams, who counts the 2000 and 2001 U.S. Opens among her seven Grand Slam titles, struggled for a bit against 193rd-ranked qualifier Rebecca Marino of Canada before pulling out a 7-6 (3), 6-3 win.

Marino actually led 3-1 in the tiebreaker, before Williams took the next six straight points to steal the opening set.

"She started returning better, serving bombs. I think she definitely upped her level," Marino said. "I did notice at one point that she started to grunt pretty loudly. And it's like, 'Whoa, she's getting serious here.'"

Azarenka began wobbling early in her match against Gisela Dulko of Argentina, taking extra time between points and wincing occasionally, clearly in distress. Azarenka said she "started having trouble seeing and felt weak."

She is an up-and-comer on tour, part of a group of young players seen as potential future Grand Slam champions. Azarenka beat Maria Sharapova in the final of a hard-court tournament in California last month and pushed Serena Williams to three sets before losing in the Australian Open quarterfinals in January.

Against Serena Williams in the fourth round of the 2009 Australian Open, Azarenka stopped in the second set, dizzy and in tears, and blamed a virus.

Her frightening exit Wednesday caught everyone's attention. Top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki wrote on Twitter: "Did anyone watch Vikas match?? I really hope she is ok!"

The match was halted with Azarenka trailing Dulko 5-1.

"It was terrible. It's not nice to see someone feeling bad, not nice to win a match this way. I hope she feels OK now," said Dulko, who walked around the net to check on the prone Azarenka. "I was worried for her."

Winners included No. 4-seeded Andy Murray, the 2008 runner-up, who said he wore a hat during a match for the first time in four or five years because of the heat; No. 12 Mikhail Youzhny; No. 14 Nicolas Almagro; No. 18 John Isner, best known for his all-sorts-of-records-smashing Wimbledon marathon victory that ended 70-68 in the fifth set; and No. 20 Sam Querrey, who beat NCAA singles champion Bradley Klahn of Stanford 6-3, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 in an all-American matchup.

At night, defending champion Kim Clijsters reached the third round by beating 201st-ranked qualifier Sally Peers of Australia 6-2, 6-1, before Roddick and Tipsarevic followed them into Arthur Ashe Stadium for a match that finished right around midnight.

Victoria Azarenka of Belarus collapses on the court while playing Gisela Dulko of Argentina at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2010.

AP

49ers' Davis, Crabtree in altercation

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Mike Singletary had to separate tight end Vernon Davis and wide receiver Michael Crabtree after the players got into a heated discussion at practice Wednesday.

Singletary didn't provide details about the incident, but said it was non-football related and is closed. He met with both players immediately in the locker room and they returned to practice separately.

"How many of you guys have families?" Singletary said to reporters. "You mind raising your hands? You scared to raise your hands? So you have kids and every now and then your kids have some misunderstandings or what have you and they forget that there is a father at home.

"I will not talk about the issue. But I will talk about this: They were both wrong. And we will not have distractions on this team. Vernon just forgot temporarily, and that is not allowed."

Neither Crabtree nor Davis spoke about the incident. Both have been sidelined this preseason because of injuries and Singletary ruled out Davis for Thursday night's preseason finale against San Diego.

AP

San Francisco 49ers head coach Mike Singletary smiles during the first half of a preseason NFL football game against the Oakland Raiders in Oakland, Calif., Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010.

Crabtree's status is uncertain. The second-year receiver is nursing a neck injury and hasn't addressed it or spoken formally since the start of camp Aug. 1, declining multiple media requests. Yet the 49ers' website posted a lengthy story quoting him Tuesday afternoon.

"I appreciate Vernon speaking from his heart, but it was just wrong," Singletary said. "But he indeed is every bit the reason why I made him captain. He's not going to sugarcoat things. He doesn't know how to sugarcoat things. But I appreciate what he was striving to do, but it was just wrong."

Davis had developed a reputation for scuffling in training camp, but was determined not to have any issues this year. He's coming off a Pro Bowl season in which he tied Antonio Gates' touchdown record by a tight end with 13. The 26-year-old Davis is still a captain.

Crabtree has long been known as a diva dating to his Texas Tech days. He was the Niners' 10th overall pick in the 2009 NFL draft, then didn't sign until October following a 71-day contract stalemate.

Singletary felt the incident between Davis and Crabtree made the 49ers stronger.

"We didn't get better on the field in practice, but we got better as a team," Singletary said. "There are no elephants in the room. The elephant was exposed."

Oswalt steers Phillies past Dodgers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Philadelphia's Roy Oswalt held Los Angeles hitless until two outs in the sixth inning, guiding the Phillies to a 5-1 win over the Dodgers in the National League on Wednesday.

Oswalt (10-13) threw 115 pitches and struck out six. He is 4-1 with a 1.90 ERA in seven starts since the Phillies acquired him from Houston.

Philadelphia used leadoff homers by Jimmy Rollins and Shane Victorino in the first two innings to get a win that kept it within three games of the NL East lead and 1-1/2 games ahead of San Francisco in the wild-card race.

Dodgers starter Clayton Kershaw (11-9) took the loss despite allowing two runs over six innings and striking out 11.

AP

Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Roy Oswalt delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Dodgers in Los Angeles, Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2010.

Giants 2, Rockies 1

In San Francisco, pinch-runner Darren Ford scored the go-ahead run from second base on a wild pitch and throwing error in the eighth inning, lifting San Francisco over Colorado.

Giants starter Tim Lincecum (12-9) ended a career-worst five-start skid, getting the best of a classic pitchers' duel.

Colorado starter Ubaldo Jimenez (17-6) was denied in his fifth attempt at a franchise-record 18th win. He lost his third straight start and fourth consecutive decision.

The Giants crept within three games of NL West leader San Diego.

San Francisco closer Brian Wilson pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his 38th save in 42 chances.

Braves 4, Mets 1

In Atlanta, Tommy Hanson finally got some run support and won for the first time in nearly two months, pitching seven shutout innings to lead Atlanta past New York.

Hanson (9-10) went 0-5 in his previous 10 starts. But he was in total command against New York. A double in the fourth was the lone hit off the Atlanta starter.

The Braves won their fifth straight and stayed level with Cincinnati for the overall NL lead.

Atlanta started the game with three straight hits off Mets starter Mike Pelfrey (13-8), who went five innings.

Reds 6, Brewers 1

In Cincinnati, Aroldis Chapman hit 165 kph (103 mph) on the radar gun, then got his first big league win when Cincinnati rallied to beat Milwaukee.

Chapman (1-0) threw two pitches at that speed in his second straight unhittable performance.

The Reds stretched their NL Central lead to a season-high eight games over St. Louis. Cincinnati hasn't enjoyed such a big edge since 1995, the last time it reached the playoffs.

Ryan Hanigan's pinch-hit, three-run homer in the seventh off Todd Coffey (2-3) set up the Reds' three-game sweep. Cincinnati has dominated the Brewers all season, winning seven of eight.

Diamondbacks 5, Padres 2

In Phoenix, Brandon Allen had an impressive 2010 debut with Arizona, hitting a grand slam and making several rangy catches in left field to help the Diamondbacks send reeling San Diego to its seventh straight loss.

Called up from the minors before the game, Allen made a running, leaping catch against the fence in the fourth inning and had an in-the-gap grab in the fifth to back Arizona starter Barry Enright (6-2). Allen punctuated his return to the majors in the seventh, hitting his first career grand slam to right off Luke Gregerson (3-7).

Arizona completed a three-game sweep of the NL West leaders. The Diamondbacks have won six of seven.

Astros 5, Cardinals 2

In Houston, Hunter Pence hit a three-run homer as Houston completed a sweep of St. Louis, handing the fading Cardinals their fifth straight defeat.

Nelson Figueroa (4-2) pitched out of two bases-loaded jams and lasted five innings for the win.

Shut out 3-0 the previous two nights, St. Louis snapped an 18-inning scoreless streak in the first for a 2-0 lead.

Cardinals starter Jeff Suppan (1-7) was activated from the disabled list before the game and allowed only one hit until the Astros rallied in the fifth.

Marlins 16, Nationals 10

In Miami, Washington's Nyjer Morgan charged the mound after a pitch sailed behind him, triggering a bench-clearing brawl during Florida's win over the Nationals.

Morgan, recently suspended and criticized by his own manager for questionable acts on the field, left Florida catcher Brett Hayes with a separated shoulder the previous day after a home plate collision in the 10th inning.

Florida pitcher Chris Volstad (9-9) hit Morgan with a pitch in the fourth inning this time. He followed it up by throwing his first pitch of the sixth behind Morgan, setting off a frenzied scene. Morgan took a big swing that appeared to graze Volstad's face — Marlins first baseman Gaby Sanchez clothes-lined Morgan, knocking off his batting helmet and sending him to the ground.

Morgan was among four players ejected from the game, and was booed as he raised his arms as he was escorted off the field.

Morgan is currently appealing a seven-game suspension for throwing a ball at a fan in the stands in Philadelphia on Aug. 21.

Washington reliever Doug Slaten and manager Jim Riggleman were ejected after Sanchez was hit with a pitch in the seventh. Four batters were hit overall.

Washington's Scott Olsen (3-8) lasted just 1 2-3 innings while losing his sixth straight start. He allowed nine runs.

Cubs 5, Pirates 3

In Chicago, Kosuke Fukudome had three hits, including a go-ahead double, during a perfect day at the plate to lead Chicago past Pittsburgh.

Fukudome went 3 for 3 with two doubles and a walk. He also scored twice.

Chicago starter Tom Gorzelanny was injured in the third when Jose Tabata lined a shot off his right hand. The left-hander departed for X-rays, but five Cubs relievers combined to allow four hits the rest of the way.

Thomas Diamond (1-3), who replaced Gorzelanny, gave up two hits in 1 2-3 innings for his first major league win.

Pittsburgh starter James McDonald (2-5) allowed eight hits in five innings.

Rays edge Blue Jays 2-1

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Tampa Bay's Evan Longoria snapped an eighth-inning tie with an RBI single, leading the Rays to a win over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Ben Zobrist began the winning rally by drawing a one-out walk from Shawn Camp (4-3), and was driven home by Longoria.

Tampa Bay starter David Price (16-6) got his club record 16th win, allowing one run over eight innings and striking out seven.

Closer Rafael Soriano worked out of a jam in the ninth for his major league-leading 40th save in 42 opportunities.

The victory gave Tampa Bay its 11th consecutive home series win over Toronto, and the Rays remained nine games clear in the wild-card race.

Yankees 4, Athletics 3

In New York, A.J. Burnett bounced back from an awful August by pitching six effective innings to guide New York past Oakland.

Burnett (10-12) went 0-4 in five starts since his previous win, and had a 7.80 ERA in August. He got September off to a stronger start, allowing three runs and striking out eight.

New York notched its fifth straight win and held its one-game lead over Tampa Bay in the AL East.

A's starter Brett Anderson (3-6) allowed only one earned run, but Oakland still fell to 1-8 against New York this season.

Mariano Rivera pitched the ninth for his 28th save. He struck out Kurt Suzuki with a runner on second to end it.

Twins 2, Tigers 1, 10 innings

In Minneapolis, Danny Valencia's one-out single in the 10th inning drove in Michael Cuddyer from second base and gave Minnesota victory over Detroit.

Cuddyer singled against Ryan Perry (2-5) to start the 10th and stole second base.

The Twins kept their four-game lead over Chicago in the AL Central, improving to 7-1 at home against the Tigers this season.

Minnesota starter Jon Rauch (3-1) pitched a perfect 10th for the win.

Rangers 4, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Texas rookie Mitch Moreland homered again as the Rangers kept pulling away in the AL West, beating Kansas City.

The Rangers increased their division lead to 9Ω games over Oakland.

Moreland homered for the second straight game, leading off the sixth inning with a shot that made it 4-2. He has five home runs in his first 25 big league games.

Texas starter Tommy Hunter (12-2) allowed two runs in 5 2-3 innings. Rookie reliever Neftali Feliz worked a perfect ninth for his 34th save in 37 opportunities.

White Sox 6, Indians 4

In Cleveland, Paul Konerko hit a three-run homer in the eighth to lift Chicago to victory over Cleveland, as Manny Ramirez made his White Sox debut.

Ramirez provided only a bloop a single in his debut but was on deck for Konerko's two-out hit off Justin Germano (0-1), which delivered a three-game sweep.

White Sox reliever Tony Pena (4-2) pitched three innings after replacing Freddy Garcia, who left after four with a stiff back.

Red Sox 9, Orioles 6

In Baltimore, Marco Scutaro and Adrian Beltre homered in a six-run seventh inning as Boston beat Baltimore.

Scutaro's two-run homer off Mark Hendrickson (1-5) tied it in the seventh. Victor Martinez added an RBI double, and Beltre followed an intentional walk to David Ortiz with a three-run shot.

The Red Sox ended a three-game skid but remained seven games off wild-card leader Tampa Bay.

Boston starter Jon Lester improved to 13-0 lifetime against Baltimore, but this one wasn't easy. He yielded more runs (five) in the first two innings than in any of his previous 15 outings against the Orioles, but settled down as Boston overcame a 5-2 deficit. Lester (15-8) allowed eight hits in six innings and struck out 10.

Angels 4, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Hideki Matsui hit a two-out, two-run homer in the seventh inning as Los Angeles rallied past Seattle.

Held to just two hits entering the seventh, the Angels got started with Mike Napoli's leadoff double. Two outs later, Matsui hit his 18th home run, barely avoiding the glover of Mariners outfielder and Japanese compatriot Ichiro Suzuki.

Wife of former Armstrong teammate speaks to feds

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The wife of one of Lance Armstrong's former teammates said Wednesday she has spoken to a federal agent investigating the seven-time Tour de France winner and other cyclists.

Betsy Andreu, the wife of former Armstrong teammate Frankie Andreu, said she has talked with Food and Drug Administration agent Jeff Novitzky about Armstrong, but declined to discuss details. She said in a phone interview that her husband has also talked to the agent.

Novitzky did not give her any details about the investigation or who else had been contacted, she said. Other Armstrong teammates, including riders George Hincapie and Tyler Hamilton, have reportedly confirmed that they have been contacted by investigators, but they have also declined to give details.

Betsy Andreu has claimed that Armstrong admitted to using performance-enhancing drugs in a hospital room in 1996 while battling cancer. The allegations have surfaced before, including in a lawsuit involving Tour winner and Armstrong critic Greg LeMond, who has said he turned over 70,000 pages of records in the case to investigators.

Angola, Spain advance at basketball worlds

KAYSERI, Turkey (AP)—Defending champion Spain advanced to the round of 16 at the basketball world championship on Wednesday and so, more surprisingly, did Angola.

Angola made the last 16 four years ago, but it began this year's tournament with a 50-point loss to Serbia. It kept improving, however, and rallied from a 10-point deficit late in the game to stun Germany 92-88 in overtime Wednesday.

"We made history for Angola today," coach Luis Magalhaes said. "My players never give up, they are warriors."

Coach Luis Magalhaes says his players "made history" for Angola.

Spain came into the tournament as the reigning world and European champion and Olympic silver medalist. It lost two of its first three games and only made sure of advancing by defeating Lebanon 91-57. Marc Gasol led Spain with 25 points and Fran Vasquez added 15.

Because winners of each of the six-team groups have an easier draw in the single-elimination round in Istanbul, at least on paper, it means Spain could run into the United States in the quarterfinals.

The United States beat Spain for the Olympic gold medal in Beijing two years ago, but no players from that American team have returned to play at the worlds.

Still, the Americans made sure of winning Pool B by cruising past Iran 88-51.

The United States and Iran may have tense political relations, but there was no tension on the court in Istanbul. There was no suspense, either, as the Americans quickly established control.

"We just respected their basketball team and we just played a basketball game," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "There's no political aspect in my mind in the ballgame."

Kevin Love scored 13 points and Kevin Durant 12 for the undefeated Americans, who will meet the fourth-place team from Group A in the round of 16.

In that group in Kayseri, top-ranked Argentina will play Serbia for first place on Thursday. Joining Angola in the second round was Australia, despite losing 94-79 to Serbia on Wednesday. Argentina later won its fourth straight by defeating winless Jordan 88-79.

Croatia beat Tunisia 84-64 and Slovenia edged Brazil 80-77 as the winners—and Brazil—joined the United States in the last 16.

Lithuania beat France 69-55 to win Group D and New Zealand, a 71-61 winner over Canada, joins Spain in the next round, with France also advancing.

In Group C in Ankara, host Turkey stayed perfect after four games, but only just, edging Puerto Rico 79-77 after trailing for three quarters.

Greece booked a place in the Round of 16 by cruising past Ivory Coast 97-60, while Russia beat Canada 89-80 to do the same. Puerto Rico needs to beat Ivory Coast to advance over China, which plays Turkey on Thursday.

Angola had never beaten Germany before and it looked like history would repeat itself when Germany held a 10-point margin with less than four minutes remaining.

But Joaquim Gomes sank a 3-pointer to put Angola within six, Felizardo Ambrosio stole the ball for a dunk and after both teams wasted their next two possessions, Ambrosio made another 3 to make it a one-point game. Heiko Schaffartzik made one free throw but Olimpio Cipriano sank both to send the game into overtime.

In overtime, Schaffartzik's 3-pointer got Germany within three with six seconds remaining, but Ambrosio then made both free throws to secure the win. Ambrosio finished with nine points and seven rebounds.

Olimpio Cipriano scored 30 points for Angola and Gomes added 16 points and 14 rebounds.

"This win means a lot for Angola, because basketball is so big in our country," Gomes said.

Nenad Krstic returned from a three-game suspension for a pre-tournament brawl in Greece and had a double-double in Serbia's victory over Australia. Krstic scored 14 points and had 10 rebounds, Milos Teodosic added 19 points and Novica Velickovic contributed 18 points and nine rebounds for Serbia.

Nuggets developing strategy to keep Carmelo in Denver

DENVER (AP)—Now that the Denver Nuggets have their management team in place, they're developing a strategy to keep All-Star Carmelo Anthony in powder blue and gold.

At his introductory news conference Tuesday, Masai Ujiri, the team's new vice president of basketball operations, said he's been in contact with Anthony and will meet with him soon.

The Nuggets offered Anthony a three-year, $65 million extension through 2014, but if he rejects it, the team will have to consider trading the forward who has guided them to seven straight playoff berths.

"I think I'm going to convince him to be a Nugget," Ujiri said, smiling. "No, I don't know, I can't make a judgment on that. Like I said, it's a process and until he tells me that ... we want him back, the city wants him back, ownership wants him back."

There have been hints that Anthony might be thinking about moving on: his mansion in the Denver area is on the market and at his New York wedding to TV personality LaLa Vazquez this summer, there was that now famous toast by New Orleans point guard Chris Paul about reuniting with Melo in Gotham to form a super-team along with Amare Stoudemire to counter the Miami Heat's terrific trio.

Anthony has never come out and said he wanted to be traded, however.

At his basketball camp this summer, Anthony dismissed all the speculation of his impending departure from Denver: "I've been hearing that for five years. I'm a Denver Nugget. I'm here, I'm with the Nuggets. I don't become a free agent until next year, if I decide not to take that extension."

He said then that he was just taking his time making a decision.

Team president Josh Kroenke, who is taking over the ownership duties from his father as a condition of Stan Kroenke's purchase of the NFL's St. Louis Rams, said Tuesday that he's had cordial conversations with Anthony and his agents, disputing reports of a recent contentious meeting.

"I haven't had a negative conversation with Carmelo Anthony since I've known him," Josh Kroenke said. "... I think he knows that he can come to me as an individual and we have that amount of respect to where we can talk about things openly in a non-combative way. So, anything that has been stated from sources behind sources, all of our talks have been cordial."

What about talks with his representatives, including agent Leon Rose?

"They've been perfect gentlemen, as well," Josh Kroenke said. "They've been great."

Coach George Karl said he hasn't talked to Anthony about his intentions.

"I didn't feel healthy enough to go to the wedding, so I have not seen him since then," Karl said. "We've had some communication through (assistant coach Tim Grgurich) and through Masai and some people, but I can't deny it kind of shook me a little bit. I really don't know" what he will do.

In addition to the Melo Matter, Ujiri faces questions surrounding J.R. Smith, who is under police investigation for allegedly choking a player during a pickup game at the team's practice facility recently.

PACQUIAO

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will face former welterweight champion Antonio Margarito on Nov. 13 at Cowboys Stadium near Dallas.

"I don't need him, he needs me," Pacquiao said of Mayweather. "Compare my achievements in boxing to his achievements."

They have both achieved plenty, which is why fans have been clamoring for the high-profile matchup for the better part of two years—and why so many are upset it has not happened.

The fight was nearly made in January, then fell apart when Pacquiao refused Olympic-style drug testing in the weeks leading up to the fight. But the newly minted Congressman from the Philippines said he's even agreed to the strict blood testing in an effort to make the fight, but he hasn't heard from Mayweather's side why an agreement couldn't be reached.

"We agree with, you know, his demands," Pacquiao said, referring specifically to the blood testing. "I wanted to know if that's his real reason (for not fighting)."

The entire negotiation process came to resemble an unsavory soap opera, with HBO Sports boss Ross Greenburg publicly stating that he had worked tirelessly as an intermediary between the two sides. Pacquiao's promoter Top Rank has a poor relationship with Mayweather, who rose to become a world champion under its banner, so it's not unreasonable to assume there was an intermediary.

Shortly after a deadline imposed by Top Rank for Mayweather to accept the fight had passed, his adviser Ellerbe issued a bizarre statement in which he said no negotiations ever took place — contradicting Greenburg and the folks at Top Rank.

Roach said that Top Rank had been calling him for advice on what gloves to wear, what ring size to use, what weight to fight at—standard details during a negotiation process.

"When people are calling me and asking me, 'Is this OK? Is this OK? Is this OK?' There's something going on," Roach said. "I know there must have been negotiations going on.

"Whatever he wanted to do, we were accepting it. Whatever he wanted. Manny said, 'I want to fight. I'll agree to anything.' I thought the fight was a shoo-in."

Roach was recently in Ukraine to watch one of his other fighters, Vyacheslav Senchenko, retain a welterweight title. But all he heard from fans were questions about Pacquiao-Mayweather—not about Senchenko, and certainly not about Margarito.

"You know, I really truly think boxing needs that fight to happen," Roach said. "All people want to know, 'When's he fighting Mayweather?' Wherever I go, that's what I'm asked. People will get annoyed if that fight didn't happen."

Most of them aren't very happy that the Margarito fight is happening.

The former welterweight champion has become boxing's biggest heel after illegal hand wraps were discovered before a January 2009 loss to Shane Mosley in Los Angeles. Margarito insists he knew nothing about plaster-like inserts and blamed his former trainer, Javier Capetillo, but he's still been refused licenses to fight in California and Nevada recently.

Even Pacquiao finds it hard to believe that Margarito didn't know what was in his wraps.

"You know what goes in your hands," Pacquiao said, adding: "He's just human. There's not a perfect person in this world. We gave him a chance to fight."

If not for all the sidelights involving Mayweather and Margarito, the fight itself would still be one among the most interesting on an otherwise barren fall boxing calendar.

After all, Pacquiao will have a chance to win a title in a record-extending eighth weight division—the fight will be for the WBC junior middleweight title, even though the catch weight is 150 pounds. And Margarito has a chance to show the world that he can beat boxing's best in a fair fight, even if he's much bigger than the pride of the Filipinos.

That the matchup will be held in Cowboys Stadium, where some are already estimating a crowd of 70,000 the night of the fight, only adds to the intrigue.

"Obviously I wanted Mayweather. I looked forward to that challenge," Roach said. "This fight is the second best. He's a good opponent, but he's very beatable."

HI-5

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While Hi-5 moved to the winner's bracket semifinals, IT&E dropped to the loser's bracket and must prevail in its last game against the winner of the O'Douls-Ol'Aces tiff, to remain in contention for a finals seat.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Nationals' victory over Sixsevenoh kept their unbeaten record and extended their winning streak to nine dating back to the regular season.

The Nationals turned on the heat in the second half for their first win in the playoffs.

After taking a five-point lead at the break, 43-38, the Nationals outgunned Becks in the third period, 27-15, to enter the fourth quarter with a commanding 70-53 advantage.

Tim Quan led the Nationals breakaway in the third canto, making eight of his 12 points in that period, while Pete Iguel and Robert Naraja combined for 11 markers.

In the fourth quarter, the Nationals' offense was spread out with coach Rufino Aguon getting contributions from five players.

In contrast, only three Becks players scored more than a field goal in the fourth quarter, dropping Sixsevenoh to the loser's bracket and putting the team in a must-win situation in its next game on Sept. 8.

First Game

CNMI Nationals 92 – Iguel 16, Naraja 13, Quan 12, Mendiola 10, Tumaquip 8, Johnson 8, Lizama 8, Barcinas 8, Lee 5, Palacios 4, Villacrusis 4.

Beck Sixsevenoh 69 – T. Diaz 24, Fitial 15, Camacho 14, Lizama 12, Castro 2, Benavente 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-18, 43-38, 70-53, 92-69.

Second Game

Bacardi 89 – Sablan 27, Abuel 18, Santos 13, Bernardo 9, Demapan 8, Capalad 6, Lerio 6, Diaz 4.

IT&E 75 – Esdrelon 23, Talania 19, Gabaldon 10, Fernandez 9, Capalad 9, Berline 5.

Scoring by quarters: 19-19, 40-38, 64-63, 89-75.

CNMI

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gold medal in the 200m backstroke, two silver, and a bronze.

Grace Kimball notched the most medals for SSC with six. She took home gold medals in the 100m, 200m, and 400m freestyle, silver in the 200m IM, and bronze in the ocean swim and 200m medley relay.

Meanwhile, the Dubai tournament will run from Dec. 15 to 19 at the newly built Dubai Sports Complex in Dubailand on the Dubai Bypass Road. The state-of-the-art 15,000-seater multipurpose sports venue boasts of a 25-meter competition pool, a 25-m dive pool, and a 50-m warm up pool with a horseshoe-shaped seating bowl in the main arena.

After the FINA tournament, it will be use to house other indoor tournaments in Dubai, which was also selected to host the 15th FINA World Championship (long course) in 2013.

The FINA championship in Dubai is a short course tournament, just like the swimming competition in the 7th Micronesian Games, which the CNMI dominated.

This year's championship is expected to attract European champions, such as the Dutch Swimming Team. The Dutch ruled the 2009 European Short Course Swimming Championships in Istanbul, Turkey, gaining 14 medals, 10 of which were gold.

Besides the Dutch, the five-day tournament will also feature swimmers from the 201-member federations of FINA, the world governing body of the sport. It will include the U.S. National Team, which is expected to have the biggest delegates to the tournament with 85 (athletes, coaches, and medical staff combined).

Forty events both for men and women are lined up in the tournament: 50m, 100m, 200m, 400m, and 1,500m (freestyle); 50m, 100m, and 200m (backstroke); 50m, 100m, and 200m (breaststroke); 50m, 100m, and 200m (butterfly); 50m, 100m, and 200m (individual medley); and 4x100m freestyle, 4x200m freestyle, and 4x100m medley (relay races).

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know our young athletes fairly well. They want to win, do the best they can and reach their full potential. Most of our youth are extremely coach-able.

Guam has about six times the student population than the CNMI and about eight times more than Palau. Yet, both the CNMI and Palau fared better than Guam when it came to the Micronesian Games. True, Guam basketball and volleyball teams, both men and women, were heads and shoulders above all other islands but not in other sports which shows the commitment made by the Northern Marianas and Palauan athletes and their programs.

If the CNMI can beat Guam in baseball, why can't we beat them in basketball?

Whoever has the correct answer to that should step and volunteer.

The athletes on Saipan are no more and no less naturally gifted and talented than the athletes in other regions. So when the CNMI men's basketball team finishes in last place, gets blown out by the Marshall Islands and loses to Chuuk, then obviously there needs to be some fundamental changes. I will leave that up to the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands to figure that out. Whatever they do, I think they should somehow involve Bill Sewell who coached a bunch of little high school girls to overachieve and win a silver medal. The reason I was impressed with the work Sewell did was because he stresses defense above all else. Anyone who could coach Pohnpei to a win over New Caledonia like he once did deserves respect and attention.

As for baseball, we have a program in place that is already equal to Guam and superior to everywhere else in Micronesia although Palau won the gold medal this time. But in a three or five or seven game series, I would bet on the CNMI. If people are fine with our baseball program, then we do not have to do much more. But the truth is, the CNMI has the potential of doing even better. We have the capability of providing a steady stream of players into college baseball. And I know our players want to get even better.

The only way for our baseball to grow is through better coaching. We have the leagues and facilities and tradition to continue what we have, but as Ray Brown, a scout for the Seattle Mariners and a professional baseball man, told me, we could be so much better if we want to be. But that takes better training and advanced training means having players learn from professionals.

In the States and other parts of the world, baseball players who are serious about fulfilling their potential attend camps or academies conducted by experts, usually former professional ball players. The best thing for us is to support our boys ages 13-17 who want to attend these academies, or even better yet, sponsor one on Saipan so that more boys can attend. CNMI manager Tony Rogolifoi saw first-hand the value of a baseball academy which was held on Guam last June. The best thing for the CNMI would have been to send our youth all-stars there as it would definitely improve their abilities in all aspects of the game. Hopefully, sometime in the near future, Saipan can host a baseball academy run by professionals which would benefit not only players, but also our coaches who are a key component of any youth development program.

FORFEITED

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those periods.

Armatech 88, Oche's 84

In the second game, Armatech regained its winning form, following an 88-84 triumph over Oche's.

Armatech had its winning run snapped to six, two weeks ago and vented its ire on Oche's, leading at 34-11, at the end of the third period.

Oche's played catch-up since then, but fell short, dropping to an even 4-4 record in the team standings.

MBI 73, Sparks 58

In the last game of the day, MBI-Right Guard topped the Sparks, 73-58.

MBI now has a 5-3 slate for fourth place in the team standings, while the Sparks absorbed their fourth loss in eight games, joining Oche's in fifth place.

After a close first half, which ended with the Sparks ahead by only a hair, 30-31, MBI limited its foe to nine points in the third quarter to take a 51-40 lead, entering the final canto.

The Sparks tried to recover, but could not get baskets in streaks, allowing MBI to pull away with the 15-point win.

First Game

Marianas Wireless 72 – Bernardo 23, Pantaleon 16, Abuel 15, Jugos 12, Tamayo 4, Aquino 4.

Joeten Superstores 68 – Lauron 19, S. Quan 14, T. Quan 12, Ferria 6, Irinaka 5, Alfonso 4.

Scoring by quarters: 13-25, 37-42, 58-56, 72-68.

Second Game

Armatech 88 – Berline 18, M. Capalad 17, Mendiola 14, W. Capalad 12, Esdrelon 11, Talania 9.

Oche's 84 – Paraiso 16, Tengco 12, Mina 9, Lizama 9, Morales 8, Lagado 6.

Scoring by quarters: 34-11, 51-31, 66-55, 88-84.

Fifth Game

MBI 73 – De Vero 18, Iguel 7, Muleta 15, D. Barbo 6, David 6, Yabut 4.

Sparks 58 – Hossain 11, Jo. Norita 9, T. Santos 8, E. Manglona 6, Jon. Norita 6, Faisao 6, Camacho 4, A. Santos 2, J. Santos 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-13, 30-31, 51-40, 73-58.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	83	50	.624	–
Tampa Bay	82	51	.617	1
Boston	75	58	.564	8
Toronto	69	64	.519	14
Baltimore	49	84	.368	34

Central Division

Minnesota	77	56	.579	–
Chicago	73	60	.549	4
Detroit	65	68	.489	12
Kansas City	56	77	.421	21
Cleveland	53	80	.398	24

West Division

Texas	75	58	.564	–
Oakland	65	67	.492	9 1/2
Los Angeles	65	69	.485	10 1/2
Seattle	52	81	.391	23

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	78	55	.586	_
Philadelphia	75	58	.564	3
Florida	67	65	.508	10Ω
New York	65	68	.489	13
Washington	57	77	.425	21 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	78	55	.586	_
St. Louis	69	62	.527	8
Houston	62	71	.466	16
Milwaukee	62	71	.466	16
Chicago	57	77	.425	21 1/2
Pittsburgh	44	89	.331	34

West Division

San Diego	76	56	.576	_
San Francisco	74	60	.552	3
Colorado	69	63	.523	7
Los Angeles	68	66	.507	9
Arizona	55	79	.410	22

Yesterday's Games

Houston 5, St. Louis 2
Chicago Cubs 5, Pittsburgh 3
Philadelphia 5, L.A. Dodgers 1
Arizona 5, San Diego 2
Cincinnati 6, Milwaukee 1
Atlanta 4, N.Y. Mets 1
Florida 16, Washington 10
San Francisco 2, Colorado 1
Chicago White Sox 6, Cleveland 4
Boston 9, Baltimore 6
N.Y. Yankees 4, Oakland 3
Tampa Bay 2, Toronto 1
Minnesota 2, Detroit 1, 10 innings
Texas 4, Kansas City 3
L.A. Angels 4, Seattle 2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

100 expected in Docomo golf

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The inaugural Docomo Pacific Golf Classic will tee off tomorrow at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

More than 100 of the islands' golfers are expected to take part in tomorrow's inaugural Docomo Pacific Golf Classic at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

According to NTT Docomo Pacific CNMI operations general manager James Nelson, although only 50 golfer so far have signed up for the weekend competition, he expects the tournament to breach the 100-player mark by tournament day.

"To the golfers who have already entered the tournament, a big thank you for your support. For those golfers who have yet to enter the tournament, make your way to either Docomo Pacific location and show your support for the Marianas Tourism Education Council, our Public School System students, and our tourism industry. After all, in the end it's the tourism industry that will benefit from the programs that MTEC will provide to the students of the public school system," said Nelson.

There is a $95 entrance fee to participate in the weekend golffest. The fee already includes cart and green fees, on-course refreshments, admittance to the awards banquet, and more. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit MTEC.

Entries will be accepted on the day of the tournament. Show time is set at 6am for late registrants and the entry fee will still be the same at $95.

Interested participants are encouraged to apply at Docomo Pacific's Gualo Rai location. Applications can also be found at local golf courses and at MITA travel locations.

Nelson said it is his company's plan to make the Docomo Pacific Golf Classic a staple in the CNMI's sports calendar.

"My expectations are high and I look forward to a successful tournament. We have over 35 companies supporting the tournament either through cash donations or in goods and services; some companies supported us with both. I am very humbled by the number of sponsors that have stepped forward and I send all of them my heartfelt appreciation. This tournament will be an annual event to be held every Labor Day weekend, so as soon as this year's tournament is over, we will start getting ready for next year's event, where we'll be able to invite golfers from Guam and quite possibly Japan," added Nelson.

Docomo Pacific, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, DFS Galleria Saipan, First Hawaiian Bank, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, *Saipan Tribune*, Pacifica Insurance, and Sand Castle Dinner Theater are some of the major sponsors for the tournament.

For more information, contact Nelson at 670-483-4215 or email jnelson@docomopacific.com.

Forfeited games mark Week 8 of Emon Lodge caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Only three of the five scheduled matches in Week 8 of the Emon Lodge 179 Freemasonry Inter-Color Basketball League were played last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Mobil's tiff against Marianas Resort in the third game of the day was forfeited in favor of the former after a no-show from the latter. Mobil improved to a clean 8-0 record, moving a win away from sweeping the regular season, while Marianas Resort dropped to a 1-7 slate.

The fourth match between Wings Travel and Tropical Laundry was also forfeited with the former gaining the win—its third in eight games. Tropical Laundry remained winless after eight matches.

Marianas Wireless 72, Joeten Superstores 68

In the third game, Marianas Wireless downed Joeten Superstores, 72-68.

Marianas Wireless trailed in the first half before recovering in the second en route to its sixth win in eight games.

Kae Bernardo paced Marianas Wireless with 23 points, drilling the team's last four points to seal the win. Bernardo drew help from three other teammates, as Jun Pantaleon chipped in 16 and Wowie Abuel and John Jugos contributed 15 and 12, respectively.

Pantaleon scored five straight points in the homestretch to give Marianas Wireless the needed baskets, while Abuel's triples in the second and third quarter helped prevent a Joeten Superstores' breakaway in

See FORFEITED on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Wings Travel's Manolo Manalo pulls up for a jumper against a Sparks defender during their game in Week 7 of the Emon Lodge caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Salbahe Brothers remain atop Fanihi division

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Buddies' Salbahe Brothers took out Buddies Boyz B on the road last Thursday and remained at the helm of the B-Fanihi division of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association.

The win improved Salbahe Brothers' win-loss record to 40-20, followed by No Fear (39-21), its victim Buddies Boyz B (35-25), Top Shooters (32-28), and IT&E Kamote's (31-29).

Other matches in the division last week saw Sande's Top Shooters pull off a sweet comeback at home over Buddies Naughty Boyz 2, VFW No Fear defeat Naked Fish Barracudas on the road, and Kamote's going into The Flair and beat the Sand Baggers.

Salbahe Brothers 8, Buddies Boyz B 7

Jojo Guilas, Ernie Domingo, and Vher Maducdoc of the visiting Salbahe Brothers won three of the four opening Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games. Then the Salbahe Brothers swept both Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket games and both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out matches to jolt their team way ahead. However, George Medina, Mario Abo, Ricky Cardinez, and Rolly Morales of Buddies Boyz B swept all four Singles Regular Cricket matches before their team swept both Partners Baseball games to knot up the score at seven games apiece going into the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out game. Boyz B fought valiantly, but it was the Salbahe Brothers who came out winners in this rollercoaster matchup.

Top Shooters 8, Naughty Boyz-2 7

Eddie Iglecias, Larry Briones, and Alvin Iglecias of the home team Top Shooters won three of the four opening Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games to give their team an early lead. Naughty Boyz-2 came back and swept both Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket matches and both teams won a game of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out. Ferdy Ngirmekur and Ray and John Cabrera of Naughty Boyz-2 won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket games to give their team a two game advantage going into the last three games. However, the upset was not to be as the Top Shooters won both Partners baseball games for the tie and took the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out match for the comeback win.

No Fear 9, Barracudas 6

Both teams won a pair of Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games before visiting No Fear swept both Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket. Then both teams won a game of Partners 501 Double in/Double Out and a pair of Singles Regular Cricket. Needing only one more win, No Fear clinched the automatic victory after winning both Partners Baseball games, while the Barracudas took the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out matchup.

Kamote's 9, Sand Baggers 6

Kaysie Aquino, Eric Pascual, Jerome F. Sembrano, and Peejay Naval of visiting Kamote's swept all four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games. Then the Sand Baggers swept both games of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket before both teams won a game of Partners 501 Double In/Double Out and a pair of Singles regular Cricket matches. Kamote's swept both Partners Baseball games for the automatic win and the Sand Baggers won the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out game.

Strikers cruising in Ladies League

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Strikers improved its league-leading win-loss record to 56-19 following yet another successful road campaign Monday night in the Ladies division of the Saipan Electronic Dart Association.

Strikers went down early after Ressie Takeda, Frances Magofna, Mary-Lois Blaluk, and Janice Camacho of Jonny's Bar and Grill's Yakau swept all four games of Singles 301 Double In/Double Out.

Strikers, however, came back to sweep both Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket matches and both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out games.

Strikers and Yakau then won a pair of Singles Regular Cricket and a game of Partners Baseball, as this match also went down to the last game where Emily Vargas, Rufina Guevarra, Rose Reguine, and Jenny Cabrera of the former won the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out game to pull off a sweet comeback win on the road. The loss dropped Yakau to a 49-26 card.

In other matches, Gaia's Lady Gagas fended off a comeback by USS Peleliu Club's Kmal Sechelim at home, Buddies Tipiyeww defeated Sande's Megatouch at home, and D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Mama's Snipers made light work of Buddies Pink Panthers.

Lady Gagas 8, Kmal Sechelim 7

Both teams won a pair of Singles 301 Double In/Double Out matches, but the home team Lady Gagas swept both games of Wild and Crazy Cricket. Then both teams won a game of Partners 501 Double in/Double Out and a pair of Singles Regular Cricket matches, but Kmal Sechelim swept both Partners Baseball games to tie the score at seven games apiece going into the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out match, where April S. Camacho, Shirley Ada, Melissa T. Jack, and Ariann Pangelinan of the Lady Gagas fought them off for the clutch win at home.

Tipiyeew 10, Megatouch 5

Both teams won a game of Singles 301 Double In/Double Out matches before home team Tipiyeew swept both games of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket and both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out matches. Both teams won a pair of Singles Regular Cricket matches and a game of Partners Baseball before Tipiyeew slammed the door and took the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out game. Notably, Tipiyeew's Rita Fitial won all five games in which she competed.

Mama's Snipers 11, Pink Panthers 4

Both teams won a pair of Singles 301 Double In/Double Out, but home team Mama's Snipers swept both games of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket and both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out matches. Then after both teams won a pair of Singles Regular Cricket games, Mama's Snipers swept both Partners Baseball games and took the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out match. Notably, Mama Sniper, Aida Laniyo won all six games in which she competed and fellow Mama Sniper Flor Miranda won all four of her matches as well.

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Hi-5, Nationals inch closer to finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Bacardi Mojito Hi-5 and the Bud Light CNMI Nationals moved a win away from advancing to the finals of the 2010 Budweiser Men's Basketball League after prevailing in separate playoff games Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Bacardi Mojito outclassed Hoegaarden IT&E in the second game, 89-75, to arrange a semi-finals showdown against the CNMI Nationals, who crushed Becks Sixsevenoh, 92-69, in the first match of the night.

The Nationals-Hi-5 tiff in the winner's bracket semifinals of the double-elimination playoffs will be played tonight at 8pm. At 6:30pm, O'Doul's Runnin' Rebels will take on the Bud Light Lime Ol'Aces with the loser getting a red card in the six-team playoff round.

Hi-5 capitalized on IT&E's lack of manpower to nail its second playoff win. IT&E played with only six players and was down to five in the last 5:10 of the game when Bruce Berline fouled out.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bacardi Mojito Hi-5's Dave Sablan, left, reaches in to tap the ball away from Hoegaarden IT&E's Melvin Capalad, center, who slipped past the defense of Jerry Diaz during their playoff game in the Budweiser caging Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Hi-5 won, 89-75, to advance to the semis.

Despite its depleted lineup, IT&E hung in there in the first three quarters and even led by as much as seven in the third, 55-48.

However, Hi-5 closed out the third canto ahead, 64-63, with David Sablan leading the team's rally in the latter half of that period after drilling seven straight points and 11 in that quarter alone.

Sablan sat on the bench at the beginning of the fourth quarter, but Hi-5 still had Wowie Abuel, who anchored the team's 9-0 start to turn a one-point cushion to a 73-63 lead.

IT&E was scoreless for about four minutes in the fourth quarter, allowing Hi-5 to slowly pull away. To make things worse for IT&E, Berline reached the foul limit, leaving the team with only five players in the remaining half of the fourth quarter.

IT&E launched one final bid for a comeback, trimming the lead to six, 73-79. However, Abuel canned a triple and then Hi-5 earned several points from the stripe to seal the victory.

Sablan top-scored for Hi-5 with 27 points, while Abuel finished with 18.

Elmer Esdrelon led IT&E with 23 points.

See HI-5 on Page 34

CNMI allowed to send two swimmers in Dubai

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI has been given two slots in the 10th FINA World Swimming Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

"We can take a total of two swimmers and one coach or representative to Dubai," Northern Marianas Swimming Federation president Bobby Winkfield said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

"We are looking at sending swimmers to the event in Dubai and both clubs on Saipan have shown an interest in sending their swimmers in the FINA tournament," Winkfield added.

The NMSF head is talking of Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan and Saipan Swim Club.

In a separate email, Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura said they are hoping to send Kai Staal and Kensuke Kimura to the Dubai tournament. Saipan Swim Club has yet to decide who will it field to the championship.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Grace Kimball won the most medals (six) for Saipan Swim Club during the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau last month.

Staal claimed six gold medals in the 7th Micronesian Games in Palau and three more gold medals in relay races where he teamed up with Kensuke Kimura, Rezne Wong, and Shin Kimura. Staal won individual gold medals in the 50m and 100m backstroke, 50m and 200m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, and 400m individual medley.

Besides the gold medals in three relay swims, Kensuke Kimura earned a

See CNMI on Page 34

Pacquiao still wants fight against Mayweather

AP
Boxers Manny Pacquiao, left, of the Philippines, and Antonio Margarito, of Mexico, hold up a WBC championship belt during a news conference, Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2010, in New York

DAVE SKRETTA
AP SPORTS WRITER

BOXING

NEW YORK (AP)— Manny Pacquiao and his trainer Freddie Roach said Wednesday they agreed to every demand put forward by Floyd Mayweather Jr. for what could have been the richest fight in boxing history.

Roach also insisted that negotiations did take place for the fight, contradicting recent statements made by Mayweather adviser Leonard Ellerbe.

Mayweather has said that he has no plans to fight this year, so Pacquiao

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Analysis or paralysis?

The biggest shocker of the Micronesian Games in the opinion of this humble scribe was Guam losing in men's fast-pitch softball. They lost for the first time in Micro Games history, falling to Pohnpei and Father Time.

Upon further analysis, maybe it should not have been such a surprise. Guam's team was comprised by some of the best ball players ever to put on a glove in Micronesia. John Hattig is a legend. His son, J.R. Hattig, played Major League Baseball. Peter Aguon had three hits off Chan Ho Park who went on to have a 17-year career in MLB. But Guam does not have a fast-pitch youth development program.

Pohnpei relied on much younger players who are now in their prime. And that is the lesson to be learned.

There is no rule, nothing written anywhere, that the CNMI must excel in sports. However, in the course of my job I have come to

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OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2